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INSIDE

LOCAL



Saipan International School celebrates two decades of 'meaningful service.'

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OFFBEAT



A Hawaii woman's last name is so long that she couldn't get a driver's license with her correct name.

► **PAGE 22**

'ONE MARIANAS CAMPAIGN'

By **HAIDEE V. EUGENIO**
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Amid heavy rains that rerouted Guam flights to Saipan, Guam Gov. Eddie Calvo and CNMI Gov. Eloy S. Inos held a summit yesterday that focused mainly on economic development, health care, and military buildup in the region.

» CNMI, Guam governors' summit on economy, health, military buildup

Calvo described it as a "One Marianas Campaign," highlighting collaboration on issues of mutual interests between Guam and the CNMI, collectively known as the Marianas.

The closed-door summit was held at LauLau Bay Golf & Resort in Kagman.

"We're talking about it as a Marianas summit, focusing on issues not only with regards to the military buildup but other areas where we have common and mutual interests as well as challenges. Some of the issues we talked about besides mil-

See **CAMPAIGN** on **Page 4**

CNMI Gov. Eloy S. Inos, seated third from left, and Guam Gov. Eddie B. Calvo, seated third from right, along with other officials from both U.S. territories, prepare for a group photo after wrapping up a Marianas governors' summit at LauLau Bay Golf & Resort in Kagman late afternoon yesterday.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

OBAMA SIGNS MILESTONE LAW FOR CNMI

NMI now controls 3-mile seabed

By **HAIDEE V. EUGENIO**
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

» 50-cent minimum wage hike delay in 2013, 2015

President Barack Obama signed into law Wednesday a historic legislation for the CNMI, giving it control of the underwater coasts of its 14 islands. The CNMI becomes the last U.S. coastal state or territory to own its offshore lands.

The newly signed law also delays the scheduled Sept. 30, 2013, and Sept. 30, 2015, minimum wage increase of 50 cents an hour.

This means the CNMI's minimum wage stays at \$5.55 an hour until Sept. 30 next year.

U.S. Sens. Ron Wyden and Lisa

Murkowski introduced S. 256 at Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan's (Ind-MP) request.

"The people of the Northern Mariana Islands have always believed that the lands and waters surrounding our

islands, which for millennia our ancestors used and preserved, belonged to us. A federal court ruling in 2005 said otherwise, requiring that the lands be con-

See **SEABED** on **Page 4**

IF INOS PURSUES FUND SETTLEMENT DEAL

Maratita warns of 'impeachable offense'

By **HAIDEE V. EUGENIO**
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Rep. Janet Maratita (Ind-Saipan) prefled yesterday a resolution urging Gov. Eloy S. Inos to reconsider and withdraw from the NMI Retirement Fund settlement agreement, saying that pursuing the terms that violate the NMI Constitution "clearly constitutes the impeachable offense of neglect of duty under Article 3 Section 19."

Maratita prefled House Joint Resolution 18-35 about a month after writ-

ing a letter to the governor claiming that the settlement agreement with retiree Betty Johnson is "unconstitutional."

The resolution has two co-sponsors as of yesterday: Reps. Lorenzo Deleon Guerrero (Ind-Saipan) and Ray Tebuteb (Ind-Saipan).

This also came days after the House adopted a joint resolution urging the governor to oppose the over \$40 million proposed fees by Johnson's attorneys.

But that adopted joint House resolution supports the settlement agree-

See **MARATITA** on **Page 4**



Maratita

Public Health Division warns of viral disease outbreak. PAGE 3
Tropical disturbance may turn to tropical depression. PAGE 8

Local

Overflows plague MINA Adopt-A-Bin Program

By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

The Adopt-A-Bin Program is plagued by overflows stemming mainly from people throwing their household garbage in the bins, according to Mariana Islands Nature Alliance executive director Sam Sablan.

In an interview with the *Saipan Tribune*, Sablan said that 80,000 lbs of trash were collected from MINA's Adopt-A-Bin Program last year, up from 60,000 lbs in the first nine months of the program in 2010.

Sablan said the Adopt-A-Bin Program worked in its first few months because of a more visible and aggressive education campaign. However, after funds for the education campaign dried up, Sablan said a lot of people in the community forgot what the Adopt-A-Bin Program was for and some have resorted to throwing their household garbage in the bins.

Also a factor in a lot of people using the bins as their personal dumpsite is the high cost of private garbage collectors and the government having no garbage collection system.

MINA itself pays Ericco Enterprises \$80 a month to collect garbage once a week from the 17 Adopt-A-Bin sites scattered all over the island.

Another problem besetting the program, Sablan said, is that people do not follow recycling and segregation practices when they throw garbage in the recycling bin.

MINA's Adopt-A-Bin Program has two types of bins: one for mixed waste and one for recyclables—paper, plastic bottles, and aluminum cans.

Sablan said that only 30-35

percent of trash collected from the bins are actually segregated, down from 40 percent when the Adopt-A-Bin Program started in 2010.

Again, she said the problem could only be remedied by educating the public more about the value of segregating trash and recycling in general.

When MINA launched its Adopt-A-Bin Program in 2010, its main goal was to prevent 800 metric tons of trash from being littered by placing recycling and mixed solid waste bins in strategic areas.

MINA believed that establishing an island culture of recycling will promote proper waste separation and disposal, reducing the amount of land-based sources of marine debris by 70 percent.

From the original seven bins funded by the NOAA Marine Debris Grant, the Adopt-A-Bin Program now has 17 bins all over the island sponsored by businesses like Asia Pacific Hotel, Inc. (Mt. Tapochao), Brabu Pharmacy (13 Fishermen's Monument and 3rd pavilion), CTSI (Susupe Park), Docomo Pacific (13 Fishermen's Monument and 3rd pavilion), Ericco Enterprises (Laolao Beach site), IT&E (Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium), Shell Marianas (Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium), Marianas Trekking and Visitors Channel (Wing Beach), Marianas Visitors Authority and Northern Marianas Diving Operators Association (Laolao Dive site), Rotary Club of Saipan (Garapan Fishing Base), Tan Holdings (2nd pavilion and 13 Fishermen), MINA (Obyan Beach), and Coastal Resources Management (Paupau Beach, Sugar Dock, and San Isidro Beach).

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Arctic Circle: Freedom Air reprieve is 'unfair'

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

An official of Arctic Circle has branded as "unfair" the decision by the Commonwealth Ports Authority board on Wednesday to give its competitor, Freedom Air, another 90-day reprieve to settle its \$1.2 million debt with CPA.

Speaking during the public comment period of Wednesday's board meeting, Paul Zak, Arctic Circle vice president, said the board's decision to delay the eviction notice for Freedom Air until the end of the year comes with no clear assurance about the steps being taken by the company to satisfy its debt.

He told the board that giving a 90-day extension to Freedom Air "doesn't seem putting sufficient pressure on the company to clean up."

"As what director [Thomas] Villagomez said, Freedom Air is not putting anything on the table, not even saying what they are doing to fix the problem. So by merely giving another 90 days doesn't seem putting sufficient pressure on Freedom Air to clean up. What pro-active things are they doing today to take care of the situation?" Zak told the board, adding that there are "clouds in the air" that need to be cleared on the issue.

The CPA issued on Aug. 19 a "final and irrevocable" eviction notice against Freedom Air, tell-

ing it to vacate all CPA premises by Sept. 19, 2013, due to \$1.2 million in unpaid obligations, more than half of which represents unremitted passenger facility charges due the U.S. Federal Aviation Administration.

The board voted, however, on Wednesday to once again delay enforcing the eviction notice

until Dec. 31 this year. Four of the seven board members supported the delay.

Freedom Air's competitor, Arctic Circle, flies twice daily to Rota using an eight-seater aircraft. Freedom Air has three flights to Rota each week using the airline's 30-seater aircraft.

Despite having only one air-

craft at this time, Zak claims that Arctic Circle can fill any potential "shortfall and gap" in the event an airline stops servicing Rota. This sole aircraft is receiving maintenance each night, he added.

"I am flying two daily [at present] and putting two more now is not a problem at all," he said, adding that Arctic Circle "has financial muscle" to expand its service if necessary. All its bills, he said, are current.

In fact, he said, the company is in the process of hiring more pilots in anticipation of expanding its services. Arctic Circle currently has one pilot.

Zak also disclosed that the company is in negotiation for the acquisition of another eight-seater aircraft, which he hopes to realize in about two months. The additional investment on the plane, it was learned, is around \$1.1 million.

"We're bringing in two

more pilots from the U.S. and they are currently undergoing the check-ride. But as soon as FAA gives us the go signal, we're ready to go," he said, adding that Arctic Circle wants to fly eight hours a day.

Zak has no problem with Freedom Air as a competitor; he believes that competition drives prices down and provides passengers more options.

"But is it fair for them to get this [reprieve]? How about the other guys? What if I say, I want the same deal?" asked Zak.

Arctic Circle, it was learned, pays about \$6,000 for its PFC share each month.

High surf expected until Monday

The CNMI Homeland Security Emergency Management issued yesterday a high surf advisory that will be in effect until 6pm on Monday.

According to the advisory, fresh to near gale west winds that are feeding into a developing circulation centered just east of the Marianas will create hazardous surf of 9 to 11 feet on west-facing reefs of the

Marianas until at least Monday. Hazardous surf of 7 to 9 feet are expected to continue along west-facing reefs through at least Saturday night.

The general public and inexperienced mariners are advised to avoid venturing near exposed reefs and beaches, especially those along west-facing reefs as rip currents are life threatening. (PR)

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Hasselback: Arrest warrant vs Fitial still active

Office of the Public Auditor legal counsel George L. Hasselback stated yesterday that the arrest warrant issued against former governor Benigno R. Fitial is still active and that they are still continuing with efforts to try to serve the warrant.

Hasselback, however, refused to comment on what specific steps OPA is taking to serve the arrest warrant.

"I'm not going to comment on the status or specific steps on ongoing investigation. It's still an active investigation, it's

still an ongoing investigation," he said.

Hasselback said the status of the case "is still the same as the last time."

He said he has no information on the current whereabouts of the former governor.

Superior Court Associate Judge David A. Wiseman reissued the arrest warrant on June 20, 2013, following Hasselback's renewed request.

It was reported in May 2013 that Fitial was at that time recuperating from gall bladder surgery in the Philippines.

OPA has filed seven criminal charges against Fitial for his

role in an alleged conspiracy to shield former attorney general Edward T. Buckingham from

being served with a penal summons in August last year. (*Ferdie de la Torre*)

SEABED

From Page 1

veyed by Congress. Now that S. 256 has become law, the lands can become ours again," Sablan said in a statement yesterday.

A submerged lands bill was the very first bill that Sablan introduced as the CNMI's first nonvoting delegate to Congress in 2009.

After unanimous votes approving the submerged lands conveyance in the U.S. House of Representatives in 2009, 2011 and 2013, and a final unanimous consent agreement in the Senate, the bill "has finally become law," Sablan added.

The Inos administration said this is "truly a victory for the people of the Commonwealth who have long yearned for the return of ownership of our coastal lands."

"The administration is grateful for the work of Congressman Kilili in advancing this measure. Governor Inos is also very pleased with the support of chairman Wyden, Sen. Murkowski, and chairman Hastings," press secretary Angel Demapan said last night.

This legislation becomes one of only 36 that have become law during Obama's second term of office. By this time in his first term, Congress had passed 181 bills that received the Presidential signature.

"Originating the bill in the Senate with bipartisan sponsorship certainly helped to win Senate passage, which had always been the stumbling block for the bill," Sablan said as he thanked

Wyden and Murkowski.

S. 256 passed the U.S. House of Representatives on Sept. 10, over a month since the U.S. Senate passed it on Aug. 1.

Sablan said he also appreciates the cooperation of House Natural Resources Committee Chairman Doc Hastings and his Democratic counterpart Ranking Member Peter DeFazio "for helping find time this month on a very crowded legislative schedule to win the fourth and final unanimous vote in the House that sent the bill to the President for his action."

In the CNMI, Rep. Tony Sablan (Ind-Saipan) welcomes the signing of a law that gives the CNMI control over the seabed 3 miles out from the coast of each of its islands.

"At least now, there is a law that clearly says we have control over 3 miles of submerged lands. We can all argue we deserve more than that but how do we go about getting more than that? We at least have 3 miles under U.S. law," the former CNMI immigration director said.

Rep. Anthony T. Benavente (R-Saipan), in Washington, D.C. this week for a series of meetings with federal officials, congratulated Delegate Sablan on the legislative success.

"The return of these lands to CNMI ownership is truly an accomplishment. I am very glad that I could be here with Congressman Sablan when he received the news from the White House," Benavente said.

Benavente is chairman of the CNMI House Natural Resources Committee, which has responsibility for many of the

decisions about the use and protection of the seabed that S. 256 allows to be now handed over to the CNMI government.

Besides signing S. 256 into law, Obama also signed Wednesday four other legislation that had to do with lands and natural resources.

These include S. 130, conveying land to the Powell Recreation District in Wyoming; S. 157, authorizing certain energy projects in Alaska's Denali National Park; S. 304, conveying 67 acres of federal land to Mississippi; and S. 459, modifying the boundary of the Minuteman Missile National Historic Site in South Dakota.

'Minimum wage hike delay'

S. 256 also authorizes a delay in minimum wage increases in the CNMI in 2013 and 2015.

A 45-year-old hotel employee said yesterday she is "disappointed" that the minimum wage increase scheduled for Sept. 30 has been delayed for at least a year.

"I was really looking forward to it. Minimum wage has not gone up while the prices of goods and services have gone up. It's hard to live with this minimum wage we have now," the mother of three told *Saipan Tribune*. She requested her name not published for fear of retaliation from her employer.

Many businesses and employers, however, welcomed the reprieve.

"But like I said before, this is not a time for celebration," Saipan Chamber of Commerce president Alex Sablan said yesterday.

Sablan said the Chamber is thankful that Obama signed the bill into law before Sept. 30 to avoid confusion as to the minimum wage.

He said a lot of families have been looking forward to a salary increase. But businesses at the same time have to cope with over 80-percent increase in their employees' salaries in the last four year. With the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. proposing another rate increase, the cost of doing business would go up much further.

"All we ask is a bit of reprieve," he said.

He added that many businesses, especially the small ones, cannot afford a 50-cent increase at this time.

But he said the CNMI economy is on its way back up, thanks to a growth in the tourism industry and the "concerted efforts of this administration, the Legislature, the business sector."

"There's a clear plan, a clear vision. And like I said we just need a bit of reprieve in costs. The only thing we can control right now is minimum wage. We understand it hurts a lot of individuals but a lot of businesses cannot afford it. We believe we will be on track in the next two to three years. With 1,600 to 1,800 hotel rooms back online by next year, that would help a lot. If we stay this course we would have 650,000 tourist arrivals by 2016 or 2017," he said.

Some employers said it's a choice between raising the minimum wage for some, and cutting the hours of others or worse, letting go of some employees.

CAMPAIGN

From Page 1

itary buildup is the application of the Affordable Healthcare Act and what it means to territory of Guam, the Commonwealth and other insular areas," Calvo told *Saipan Tribune* right after the summit wrapped up.

They also discussed common mandates imposed by federal agencies such as the Clean Air Act and the Clean Water Act on the two territories.

Calvo said the summit may well be the first of its kind between the chief executives of Guam and the CNMI.

He said other issues they'd like to address more are opportunities for increased economic trade between the two territories. Calvo said this includes looking at some the regulations and laws of each of the islands.

Tinian Mayor Ramon Dela Cruz, also a participant in the summit, said Tinian, for example, would like to have its airport open to direct flights to Guam.

Press secretary Angel Demapan said yesterday's discussions "were very healthy and served as a great leap pad for future collaboration on issues identified today."

CHCC

From Page 1

rash is usually on the palms of the hands and soles of the feet; it may also appear on the knees, elbows, buttocks or genital area, occasionally on the trunk. The virus may be found in nasal secretions, saliva, and stool from affected individuals, and can be spread by coughing, sneezing, and touching contaminated surfaces or objects. Infants and children spread it commonly in daycare centers and schools. It usually takes three to six days for a person to show symptoms of HFMD after being exposed.

There is no vaccine to protect against the viruses that cause HFMD. A person can lower their risk of being infected by washing hands often with soap and water, especially after changing diapers and using the toilet. Cleaning and disinfecting frequently touched surfaces and soiled items, including toys, and avoiding close contact such as kissing, hugging, or sharing eating utensils or cups with people with HFMD also help. If a person has mouth sores, it might be painful to swallow. However, drinking liquids is important to stay hydrated. If a person cannot swallow enough liquids, these may need to be given through an IV in their vein.

Chickenpox is also a very contagious infection caused by a virus. It is spread from person to person by direct contact or through the air from an infected person's coughing or sneezing. It causes a blister-like rash, itching, tiredness, and fever lasting an average of four to six days.

Most children recover without any problems. Chickenpox can be spread for one to two days before the rash starts and until all blisters are crusted or no new lesions appear within a 24-hour period. It takes between 10-21 days after contact with an infected person for someone to develop chickenpox.

Persons who received their chickenpox vaccination generally have only mild symptoms with shorter duration of illness and fewer than 50 lesions. The rash may be atypical with red bumps and few or no blisters.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommends two doses of chickenpox vaccine for children, adolescents, and adults. Two doses of the vaccine are about 98-percent effective at preventing chickenpox. When you get vaccinated, you protect yourself and others in your community. This is especially important for people who cannot get vaccinated, such as those with weakened immune systems or pregnant women.

HFMD usually clears up within four days while chickenpox is about a week.

Persons who are concerned about their foot, hand, mouth disease or chickenpox should contact their health care provider. If you are concerned about possible symptoms, contact your healthcare provider before visiting them at the clinic. This will help avoid exposing other individuals at the clinics. To get your chickenpox vaccination or should you have any questions about this matter, contact CHCC's Immunization Program at 236-8745 or email at chccpublichealth@gmail.com. (*CHCC*)

MARATITA

From Page 1

ment itself; it only objects to the attorneys' fees as currently proposed.

The Inos administration maintains that the settlement agreement "is the only deal that provides certainty for the members."

Some senators also signed off on a Senate resolution on Wednesday expressing support for retirees who elect to exercise their option to opt out of the settlement deal and formally tender their request for exclusion pursuant to section 2.0 of the proposed settlement agreement.

Maratita, in her six-page resolution, said the settlement agreement violates five constitutional provisions, including the separation of powers doctrine, the legislative entrenchment doctrine, and the governor's oath of office.

She said the governor may be legally unconstitutional "because inter alia they violate the

separation of powers doctrine, violate Article 10, Section 3, and Article 3, Sections 9 and 20 of the CNMI Constitution, and therefore, because such actions constitute 'neglect of duty', such actions on the part of the governor may be grounds for impeachment under Article 3, Section 19 of the CNMI Constitution."

Maratita said the CNMI Legislature is not a party to the lawsuit and has never been afforded an opportunity to participate in a meaningful manner despite the need for "legislative action" as required by paragraphs 12.0 and 34.0 of the settlement deal.

The lawmaker also cited Article 3 Section 20 of the NMI Constitution, which states in part that "membership in an employee retirement system of the Commonwealth shall constitute a contractual relationship. Accrued benefits of this system shall be neither diminished nor impaired."

"Governor Eloy S. Inos will commit a grievous wrong by

violating the express language of Article 3, Section 20 of the CNMI Constitution by diminishing the benefits of CNMI retirees by 25 percent and possibly more under the plain terms of the settlement agreement that he supports," Maratita said in her resolution.

HJR 18-35 says the proposed settlement agreement will adversely affect governmental operations and the CNMI's wellbeing by obligating \$25 million in 2014, \$27 million in 2015, \$30 million in 2016, and so forth, to the settlement deal.

The resolution says these amounts will constitute a public debt that has never been legally approved by the constitutionally required two-third of the Legislature.

Maratita said even assuming that the 18th CNMI Legislature was willing to provide legislative approval, no one legislature or governor can legally bind the actions of a subsequent legislature or governor for the period of 2014 to 2024 because such

Deliberations begin in teen beating trial

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A Superior Court jury began deliberations yesterday afternoon in the case against the driver of an alleged illegal taxi and his male friend, who are charged with beating up and threatening to kill a teen passenger.

Deliberation will resume today, Friday, at 8:15am.

Alleged taxi driver Han Tai Lin is on trial for assault with a dangerous weapon, kidnapping, and conspiracy to commit kidnapping. His co-defendant, Ji Jing Borja, is on trial for kidnapping and conspiracy to commit kidnapping.

Johnson counsel wants to appear telephonically

BY **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Timothy R. Lord, a San Rafael, Calif.-based lawyer who is demanding \$3.6 million or \$5.9 million in attorney's fees as one of the counsels for Betty Johnson, asked the federal court yesterday to allow him to appear telephonically during the hearing on their attorneys' fees and costs.

Lord said he wants to appear telephonically due to his medical restrictions.

"I have a medical condition that causes my feet and legs to swell and become numb when I take long distance flights," the lawyer said in his declaration.

Lord said the flight from San Francisco to Saipan is approximately 11 hours and that his primary care physician advises him against taking the flight.

The lawyer attached in his motion a letter from Dr. Joseph A.

Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho will decide on the charges of assault and battery and disturbing the peace against Lin, and the charge of disturbing the peace against Borja.

The prosecution rested its case on Wednesday after presenting at least four witnesses, including the alleged victim.

The boy, who is now 17, testified that he called the taxi to pick him up from Chacha Junior High in Kagman and drop him off at the house of his girlfriend in Tanapag where there was a fiesta at that time on Oct. 7, 2012. The boy stated that Lin got mad when he told him that he had no money and

would pay him when they arrive at his girlfriend's house.

The defense rested yesterday after assistant public defender Matthew Meyer, counsel for Lin, called in Lin, police officer Norbert Mettao, the alleged illegal taxi operator, and alleged illegal taxi driver.

Lin denied beating the boy and claimed that the teen tried to extort money from him by threatening to have him arrested for operating an illegal taxi.

The alleged taxi operator and the alleged illegal taxi driver both testified yesterday that they heard on their taxi radio Lin repeatedly stating that the boy was threatening to have him arrested for engaging in illegal taxi. The two witnesses said that Lin's voice

appeared to be in a hurry and was shaking.

In her closing arguments, assistant attorney general Nicole Driscoll urged the jury to give justice to the boy, who was 16 years old when the incident happened.

The prosecutor said that when the boy told Lin that he does not have money at that time for his taxi fare, Lin snapped and became very angry, pulling an 18" long screwdriver and threatening the teen.

In the defense's closing arguments, Meyer cited the teen's allegedly inconsistent statements

during his testimony in court, to investigators, and to his then girlfriend.

Meyer said that Lin never changed his testimony, compared to the teen.

Meyer said the boy kept changing his testimony and in fact told his girlfriend a false story that police recovered guns and drugs from the taxi after Lin's and Borja's arrest.

In his closing arguments, attorney Colin Thompson, counsel for Borja, described the teen's testimony as "just unbelievable."

Thompson questioned how

Lin could have hit the teen with an 18-inch screwdriver while driving and calling the radio at the same time.

"It doesn't make common sense!" Thompson said.

Thompson said the screwdriver and reports of the boy's injury were not presented as evidence.

"Where's the doctor, the nurse, the photographs of the injury?" the defense lawyer asked. "Don't you want corroboration so you are certain with your decision?"

Thompson pointed out that Mettao, who responded and interviewed the boy, gave a different testimony on the witness stand.

The defense lawyer said he believes that the boy was just embarrassed to tell his then girlfriend that he did not want to pay the taxi and was injured when he jumped from the cab.

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SIS celebrates two decades of 'meaningful service'

»September 2013-2014 declared as 'SIS' Year of Celebration'

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Two decades have passed for the Saipan International School yet its mission statement remains the same: To provide each child the opportunity to grow socially, emotionally, and intellectually.

This is what makes SIS headmaster Dr. Dale Jenkins truly proud of the school, saying it is not just a place of learning but is also home to many families and their children.

Wednesday marked the school's 20th anniversary as the CNMI's only international school. In a special gathering

for students, parents, guests and dignitaries, Dr. Jenkins shared the humble and inspiring beginnings of the school.

"This school is really a result of a love affair: a love affair between parents and their children. In 1993, there was a small group of parents who had very young children. As they wanted to keep them together, they developed a school that would give their children the finest educational opportunities possible...and so the Saipan International School was created and classes begun on Sept. 18, 1994."

From only 45 students taking classes in a house at San



Lt. Governor Jude Hofschneider, center, is flanked by officials of the Saipan International School and members of its board of trustees after signing on Wednesday a proclamation designating September 2013 to September 2014 as "SIS' Year of Celebration." SIS marked its 20th anniversary on Sept. 18 and kicked off the celebration by a ceremony at its campus.

"As the CNMI's only international school, it is an important part of the community that attracts top-rated students from across the region [and] that generates prestige and visibility for our beautiful islands," he said.

Jenkins vows to continue developing SIS' academic program and to expand their services, particularly in the area of telecommunications and long distance education.

On Wednesday, Lt. Gov. Jude Hofschneider signed a proclamation endorsing September 2013 through September 2014 as "SIS' Year of Celebration" and urged the community to join in celebrating and commemorating the achievements of SIS through appropriate events and activities.

SIS will have its biggest event in March 2014, in celebration of the birth of the institution. Among other plans in the works is the development of a strategic plan for the institution.

"The future is incredibly bright for the school and we're very happy about it. We're very pleased where we are now and we want to continue to make progress," he told *Saipan Tribune*.

SIS students call themselves "Geckos."

One such proud gecko, Mike Johnson, shared his experience: "When I first moved here, I knew that it would take a lot of adjusting. There are so many differences apparent here—from seeing kindergarteners walking around to the smaller class sizes. I went from a class of almost 400 to a class of 15. I went from scanning ID cards to buying paper tickets for lunch. I went from four classes a semester to nine classes a semester. I went from one AP class to three AP classes....and I am loving every second of it."

Johnson is the president of the SIS' Student Council.

Litter. It Costs You.
Get it in the Bin!

Litter Patrol is on the hunt for litterbugs. Get it in the bin or take it home. Your litter could cost you \$200.

Jose Village, SIS now has 215 enrollees from K-4 to high school. From just one staffer, the school also has 20 faculty and support staff now. The school campus itself is now located in As Lito.

For two decades now, SIS has graduated about 50 high school students, majority of whom went on to college around the globe and have been successful in their chosen fields.

According to Jenkins, SIS has built a top-rated Asia-Pacific reputation as a school with rigorous academic expectations and results. Its high school students take up to six Advanced Placement courses in English, History, and Math.

The Western Association of Schools and Colleges has also recognized SIS' academic excellence by giving it the highest possible accreditation terms of six years that runs until 2017.

SIS' K-5 to 11th grades, according to Jenkins, have individualized reading programs and its students-to-teacher ratio is ideal at 11:1 in most classes.

Special Seafood Buffet

with bottomless Miller Light



Featuring:

Assorted Sushi Rolls/Fresh Sashimi/Tempura Station/Roast Beef
Tepanyaki Station (Shrimp, Chicken and Mahi)
Assorted Seafoods on Ice and a lot more!



Every Mondays and Fridays

6:00pm to 9:30pm

Regular price: \$27.50 with 20% local discount

Children 4 to 11 yrs old: \$13.00

Kanoa Resort
Saipan

Weekend Lobby Food Fair!

EVERY FRIDAY AND SATURDAY

6:00 - 9:00PM

Food \$1.00, \$2.00 and \$3.00 menu





NMC

Northern Marianas College's Community Development Institute and the Department of Community and Cultural Affairs' Child Care Development Fund program recently awarded certificates to 15 participants for completing the "Infant and Toddler Care Training" program offered through CDI. Seated from left are Les Ogumoro-Uludong, CDI program manager; Maribel Loste, CCDF administrator; Roselle Teregeyo, CCDF staff; and David Attao, NMC dean of Administration and Resource Development.

15 complete childcare training by NMC, DCCA

Fifteen childcare providers from various day care centers, including members of the community, recently completed a professional and developmental training program facilitated by the Northern Marianas College's Community Development Institute.

These 15 participants make up the eighth cohort of the "Infant and Toddler Care Training" program to be awarded certificates of competency, as well as Continuing Education Units, which are units of credit hours in a program designed for specific professionals. The participants successfully completed 70 hours of instruction covering topics like social-emotional growth and socialization, learning and development, and health and safety considerations.

These participants are Julieta DM Abad, Maria Theresa F. Atienza, Imelda M. Ballester, Jaye Napay Bautista, Erica Cabrera, Rency H. Castro, Marjorie Depino, Reynaldo L. Garcia, Cerila Samson McDowell, Ana Marie Pacamalan Ocon, Nolaída L. Placino,

Glenda V. San Cabriel, Aurora D. Sanchez, Jesusa L. Seki, and Gemma L. Tamon.

The "Infant and Toddler Care Training" program was funded by the Department of Community and Cultural Affairs' Child Care Development Fund program and facilitated through NMC's Community Development Institute, which is a program that offers a variety of professional courses in a wide range of fields including child care.

"With this last cohort, CDI and DCCA-CCDF has graduated 117 students for this particular training program," said acting CDI director Floyd Masga. "We are proud that this partnership between CDI and DCCA has given so many people in our community an opportunity to expand their professional skills and knowledge."

For more information about NMC's Community Development Institute and its programs, contact CDI at 237-6810 or email CDI program manager Les Ogumoro-Uludong at les.ogumoro@marianas.edu. (NMC)

Sasamoto is PSS finance director; Hardwicke is BOE's new counsel

The CNMI Public School System has hired a new finance director while the Board of Education has a new legal counsel.

BOE chair Herman T. Guerrero told *Saipan Tribune* that PSS has finally found a new finance officer in Derek Sasamoto. That position has been vacant since June 2012.

George Palican, who has been occupying the post in an acting capacity, returns to his old position as federal programs monitoring officer.

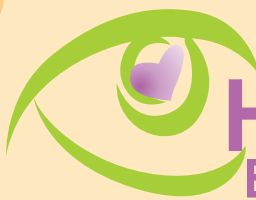
Sasamoto is a former comptroller of the Commonwealth Ports Authority; he left the

agency in May.

Sasamoto will handle the system's local finances. Federal programs are being handled by PSS federal programs officer Tim Thornburgh.

The board has also hired a new legal counsel, Adam Hardwicke. Guerrero said the new counsel will replace Kelly Butcher, who has resigned and will be leaving the board this month.

Hardwicke is the former chief public defender. He quit in December last year after seven years of service. (Moneth G. Deposa)




HARDT EYE CLINIC

DR. DONALD C. HARDT, SR.

1931-1989

*Cared for the eyes of Paradise,
California for 30 years.*

*We'd like to pay tribute to our Dad who would
be celebrating his birthday this month if he was still
with us. We are proud to have followed in his footsteps
and strive to continue his tradition for superior, personalized care for all patients.*



235-2030

Tropical disturbance may turn to tropical depression

A large tropical disturbance that has been developing over the Marianas may turn into a tropical depression over the next couple of days, according to the National Weather Service in Guam yesterday.

The disturbance brought rains early morning until late afternoon in the CNMI yesterday.

As of 9:23am yesterday, NWS said the disturbance, with its center about 170 miles east-

southeast of Saipan, is expected to develop as it drifts north or northeast.

The disturbance triggered rains of 2 to 4 inches through Friday. Scattered showers, some heavy, and isolated thunderstorms can be expected across the Marianas over the next two to three days.

Gusty winds of 20 to 25 miles per hour are likely across Rota and Guam and their coastal wa-

ters through today, Friday.

For Rota and Guam, seas will rise to 8 feet through today, Friday, producing hazardous conditions for operators of small boats.

Winds and seas are currently expected to be less across Saipan and Tinian, but that could change depending on how the disturbance develops and moves.

NWS urged the public to

stay informed on this developing weather situation by keeping abreast of the latest forecasts and listening for any further statements and possible warning.

NWS advised the people of the CNMI and Guam to avoid venturing near exposed reefs and beaches, especially those along west facing reefs as rip currents are life threatening. *(Ferdie de la Torre)*

Habele donates jerseys to Yap schools

COLUMBIA, South Carolina—U.S.-based charity Habele has sent a collection of custom-designed sports uniforms to Yap Catholic High School and SDA School, the two private high schools on the Micronesian island of Yap. The uniforms, the first of their kind for both schools, will help inaugurate intramural sports leagues at both schools.

"We're tremendously excited

to be helping the high schools with their nascent sports programs," said Alex Sidles, a Habele director. "These uniforms will give the students a lot of pride and enthusiasm for their schools."

Previously, the students had been crafting crude jerseys out of old t-shirts by spray-painting the cloth beneath handmade cardboard stencils.

The new uniforms feature

the schools' names and colors on one side—light blue for Yap Catholic, maroon for SDA—and can also be turned inside out to reveal a white side. The American-made reversible jerseys allow the schools to set up teams within their own campuses.

"These are really good uniforms," said Sidles. "We had them custom-designed and crafted for each school. I've seen the student athletes play at these schools, and they deserve the best equipment we can get them."

In addition to the uniforms, Habele will be sending high quality basketballs and volleyballs to each school. "Sports are such an important part of growing up to be a healthy, well-rounded adult," said Sidles. "It's a real pleasure to help these schools out with that."

The two schools

are not yet scheduled to play regular matches against one another, but Sidles said he is hoping for a couple of exhibition games during the school year. One possibility is to incorporate an exhibition game into the Yap Robot Day festival. The two schools' robotics teams compete against each other on Robot Day, and it might be possible to showcase a game between their sports teams at the same event.

"The uniforms just open up more possibilities for public games, intramural leagues, competitions between schools, whatever you can think of," said Sidles. "I played basketball for my high school, and it was one of my favorite parts of the high school experience."

Habele has been working with the two private schools for years, providing scholarships to needy students, supplying the robotics program, and making the targeted donation of library materials. The sports program is Habele's first initiative in this field and was made possible by Habele's US-based donors and volunteers, including Barbara and Ray Dalio of Connecticut. Those interested in learning more or in helping Habele's educational mission can visit www.habele.org. *(Habele)*



New athletic jerseys in school colors of the Yap Catholic and the SDA School.

HABELE

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

September 20, 2005

RP's NCLEX takers bypassing NMI for HK

Tourist arrivals in the CNMI from the Philippines went down by over 50 percent compared to statistics last year, coinciding with the move to allow Hong Kong to administer the National Council Nursing Licensure Examination this year. For August 2005 alone, statistics showed a decline of 57 percent or 210 visitors from Manila, compared with the 489 in August 2004. In July, Manila visitors only numbered 271 or 37 percent down from last year's 429. In June, the decline was at 57 percent, as only 213 people came compared with 496 during the same month last year.

Termites munching on 3 MHS buildings

Three buildings at Marianas High School are in dire need of repair but the school, which has the CNMI's largest student population, continues to get the cold shoulder treatment by government authorities. According to MHS acting principal Karen Borja, some of the school's buildings are in bad shape and have been infested by termites in the last four years. "We've been relaying this to the Public School System CIP, but unfortunately there's no money to correct the situation," she said. Borja said the buildings that badly need repairs are the S-Building, J-Building, and T-Building.

September 20, 2006

NMI-wide jobs audit sought

Acting Gov. Timothy P. Villagomez is seeking a comprehensive audit of private sector jobs to help more resident workers find employment. In a letter last week to Public Auditor Michael Sablan, Villagomez asked the Office of the Public Auditor to conduct a study of employment in the private sector to identify jobs being held by nonresident workers that could be filled by qualified resident workers. "I feel certain that a good number of the jobs for which work permits are being issued could be filled by resident workers," said Villagomez. "This audit would help identify those positions so we can help more residents secure gainful employment." The CNMI Department of Labor issues approximately 30,000 nonresident worker permits each year.

OPD overworked, understaffed

The CNMI government office that represents indigent defendants in court cases is experiencing a severe staff shortage. Public defender Elisa Long reported that each of the five attorneys at the Office of the Public Defender handles an average load of over 100 cases. She also said that the legal support staff in her office consists of only three people. The two investigators and one secretary conduct all of the investigations, interview clients, file documents, keep track of case files, and maintain the schedules and the databases for the attorneys.

September 20, 2007

Pete A. bats for 12-year cutoff

Instead of the five-year cutoff in the proposal to grant resident status to long-term alien workers, Washington Rep. Pete A. Tenorio wants the cutoff extended to 12 years to limit the number of nonresident workers who will qualify. Tenorio made the recommendation in recent letters he sent to Energy Committee chair Jeff Bingaman (D-NM), ranking member Pete V. Domenici (R-NM), Insular Affairs Subcommittee chair Donna Christensen (D-VI) and ranking member Luis G. Fortuño (R-PR). The suggestion, among other proposed changes, particularly focuses on Section 6(h) of the two federalization bills now pending in the U.S. Congress, S. 1634 and H.R. 3079. This section provides a one-time grant of U.S. non-immigrant status to some long-term nonresident workers.

CNMI govt monitoring overstayers

The list of overstayers, published Sept. 10, 2007 and Sept. 17, 2007, drew complaints from only about three persons on the list, said Jeffrey Camacho, a senior investigator at the Department of Labor. Two of those persons had died and the necessary record with respect to the third person was late in arriving from Tinian, he said. "The Labor Department does not get records on deaths unless the employer reports to us," Camacho said. "In these two cases, we heard about the deaths only after we published the list. Technically, these two cases were overstayers on the Labor department's records. In [the other] instance, we did not get a record from Tinian until one day after the list was finalized and sent to be printed."

FLU W.A.T.C.H.

A

➔ **Avoid others when sick**
Stay Home!

➔ **Avoid Touching your eyes, Nose & Mouth**
Germs spread this way!

PROTECT YOURSELF

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This Flu W.A.T.C.H. message was brought to you by the
Public Health Emergency Preparedness Program
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To learn more, visit <http://chcc.gov.mp> or call 234-8950

Federally funded by CDC

OWWA included in mobile consular services next month

After waiting for close to a year, Filipinos wanting to renew their Overseas Workers Welfare Administration membership can now do so in next month's mobile consular services on Saipan and Rota.

OWWA is a Philippine government agency that handles the welfare and wellbeing of Filipino workers abroad.

The Philippine Consulate General in Agana, Guam announced yesterday that OWWA recently approved the Consulate General's request for the inclusion of OWWA services in the upcoming mobile consular services scheduled next month on the island.

The third mobile consular services will be held at the Mt. Carmel Social Hall on Saipan from Oct. 7 to 10, while the Mayor's Office on Rota will be the venue for the same services from Oct. 12 to 13.

OWWA, through a letter from OWWA Administrator Carmelita S. Dimzon, informed the Consulate General that a representative of the agency would be sent to join the consulate's team in order to accept applications for OWWA membership.

OWWA said the following are eligible to apply for or renew their membership: Overseas Filipino workers who are of legal age and are gainfully employed at the time of registration; OFWs whose OWWA membership had expired; and OFWs who have acquired regular/permanent residency status in foreign country of work but have remained Filipino citizens.

For this purpose, Filipino

workers in the CNMI who wish to apply or renew their OWWA membership are advised to prepare the following requirements for submission to the OWWA representative during the mobile consular outreach: accomplished OSMF Information Sheet; proof of employment such as work contract/work permit (CW1/visa for Saipan OFWs) employment offer, pay slip, certificate of employment from the company/employer,

company identification card, and/or other relevant evidence of employment; valid passport; and membership fee of \$25

The validity/coverage of the OWWA membership is per contract basis and maximum period is two years.

The Consulate General said the processing of applications will be on a first-come, first-served basis, from 9am to 12pm and from 1pm to 5pm on both Saipan and Rota. *(Saipan Tribune)*

MVA joins JATA Travel Showcase

The Marianas Visitors Authority joined representatives of over 150 other countries and regions at Japan's largest annual travel show on Sept. 13-15, 2013.

JATA "TABIHAKU" Travel Showcase was held at Tokyo Big Sight and attracted national tourism agencies, airlines, hotels, travel agencies, cruise companies, and other tourism agencies. Exhibitors provided the latest tourism information to visitors and professional members of the travel trade. This year, the showcase attracted over 131,000 attendees.

In addition to manning an information booth, the MVA had six local arts and crafts

demonstrators. SandCastle Saipan's magician also performed.

"JATA Travel Showcase remains on the top of our list of annual marketing shows in Japan, due to its wide popularity with the general public and travel trade representatives," said MVA marketing manager Bruce Bateman. "Despite an approaching typhoon, there was a record number of attendees this year, and Northern Mariana Islands were well represented under the Visit USA pavilion with other U.S. destinations."

JATA Travel Showcase is one of Asia's largest tourism events. *(MVA)*

CBP arrests man wanted on 2 outstanding warrants

»Wanted criminal arrested attempting to board flight for Honolulu

HAGATNA, Guam—U.S. Customs and Border Protection officers working at the Guam International Airport identified and arrested a man wanted by local law enforcement authorities. The

man was attempting to depart Guam on Sept. 6.

CBP officers positively identified Joshua Tenorio, 27, as a wanted fugitive by the Superior Court of Guam.

Tenorio was the subject of two active arrest warrants. One warrant listed charges of family offense, family violence, assault and harassment. The second warrant contained charges of

simple assault, unlawful restraint, family violence and obstructing government operations.

Tenorio was arrested by U.S. Customs and Border Protection and turned over to the Guam Airport Police for further processing. *(CBP)*

ANNOUNCEMENT

SAIPAN SWIM CLUB TRYOUTS/ REGISTRATION

SSC is pleased to announce and invite all interested swimmers for tryouts and registration for the 2013-14 swim season. Swimmers should come with swim clothes (swim goggles if you have them) and towels. Parent/guardian must be present.

Tryouts/Registration Dates:

Monday 9/23

Friday 9/27

Monday 9/30

Time: 5:00 p.m.

SSC also announces that it is looking for a part-time Assistant Swim Coach. Lifeguard certification preferred. Police clearance and character references required. Send resumes via fax to 234-5749 or email Robert Torres at rttlaw@pticom.com

/s/ Robert T. Torres
SSC President

DISCONNECTION NOTICE

IT&E would like to remind its customers that payments not received by close of business on **September 23**, will result in temporary suspension of all telephone services after 6:00 p.m. on that day. To prevent temporary suspension, customers must pay their bills on or before **September 23**.

THIS WILL BE THE ONLY NOTIFICATION IT&E CUSTOMERS WILL RECEIVE

You have the right to dispute this notice. You must state your claim in person or in writing no later than **September 23**. You must pay any amount not in dispute to avoid disconnection. Payment denotes acceptance of all charges.

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Online payment — up to 9:00pm

New for CNMI Residents! College in the West for Less

Now that the CNMI is a part of the Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education (WICHE), CNMI residents are eligible to be considered for discounted tuition rates at more than 150 colleges and universities like Arizona State University, UNLV, Boise State University, Washington State University, Portland State University, and many more!



WICHE
Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education

WICHE helps CNMI Residents...

- Save Money - Pay reduced tuition
- Choose from 150+ institutions
- Stay and study in 15 western states

Alaska • Arizona • California • Colorado • Hawaii
Idaho • Montana • Nevada • New Mexico • North Dakota
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Visit www.marianas.edu for more information.

This ad was made possible through the U.S. Department of Education's College Access Challenge Grant program.

Opinion

Hafa Adali

Saipan Tribune

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Jayvee L. Vallejera EDITOR
Mark Rabago ASSISTANT EDITOR

MEMBER

AP The Associated Press

Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

How do we confront the next mass shooting suspect?

The following editorial appeared in the Dallas Morning News on Wednesday, Sept. 18:

Again? Again. And again and again. Gunfire? Who's shooting? Innocents dive for cover, the clock ticks, loved ones wait in horror, cops and ambulances roll, officials try to explain.

From Virginia Tech to Fort Hood to Aurora to Newtown, with too many tragic stops in between, America again must confront a mass shooting at another seemingly safe place, this time the Navy Yard in Washington, blocks from the U.S. Capitol. If a college campus isn't safe—or a premier U.S. Army base or a suburban movie theater or a Connecticut grade school—how then can we expect safety at the Navy's Washington hub?

In anger and anguish, we frantically track backward from points known. A 34-year-old man named Aaron Alexis, a former Navy reservist who spent several years in and around Fort Worth, is identified as the gunman, shot dead himself by first responders.

We discover troubling episodes in his past and increasing mental instability. He shot out the tires of a car that construction workers parked too close to his. He fired a shot, accidentally or on purpose, through his apartment ceiling and frighteningly close to a neighbor who got on his nerves. No arrests, no convictions.

And now, authorities say, the practicing Buddhist obsessed with violent video games opened fire on dozens of people who did no more to offend him than go to work on a Monday morning.

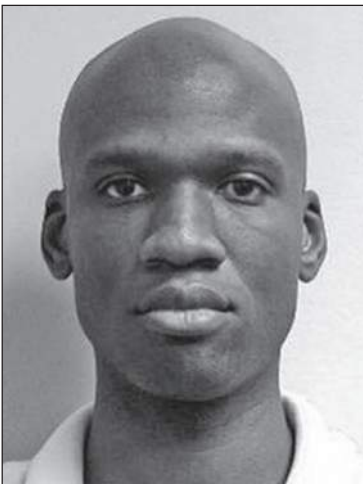
How in the world? How does someone with documented gunfire incidents in Seattle and Fort Worth still manage a concealed handgun permit and security clearance to enter a Navy base?

The signs were there. Why didn't we see them?

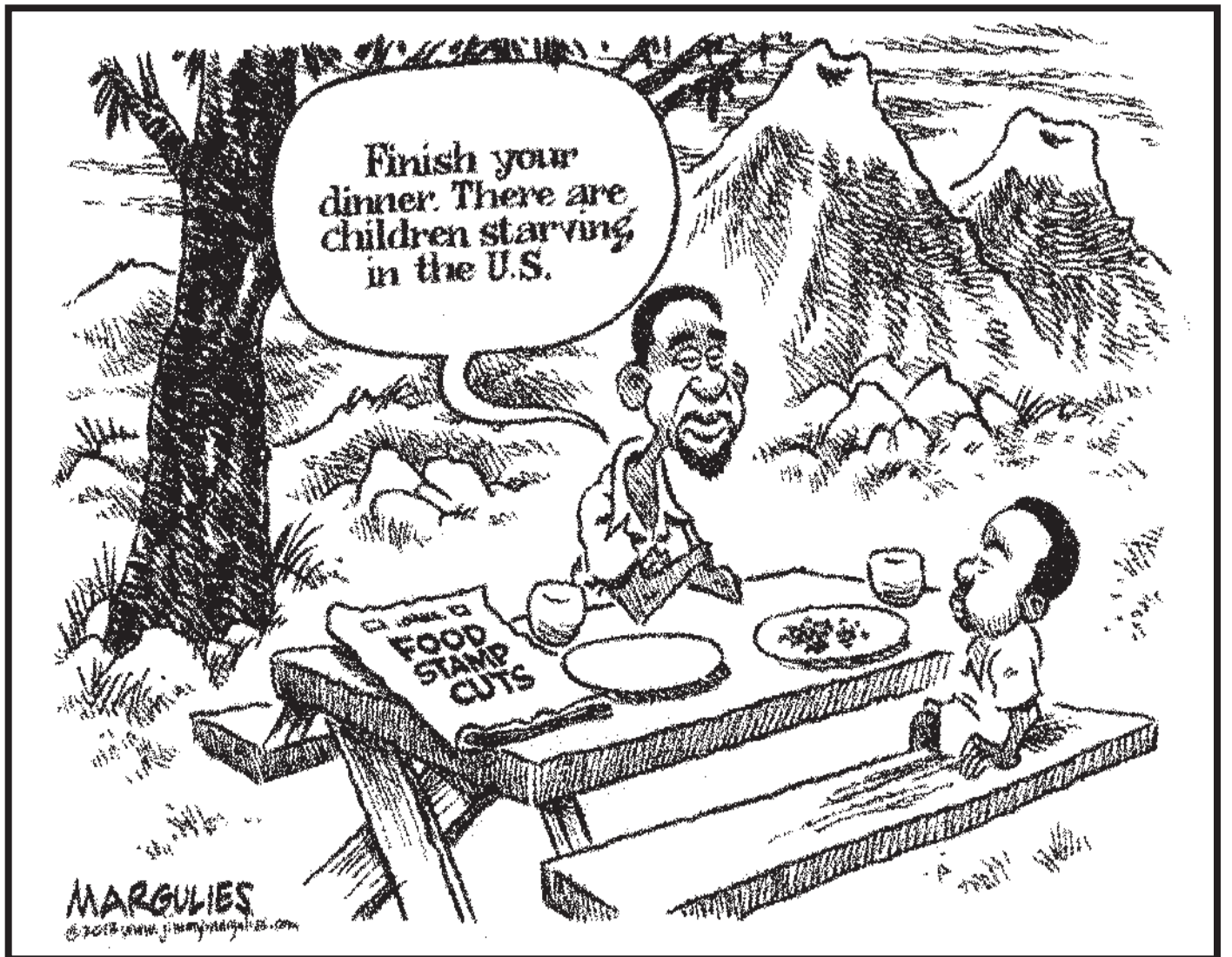
What might we have done if we had?

What's remarkable—or remarkably frustrating—about modern-day mass shootings in America isn't the differences but the commonalities. Mental health

See SHOOTING on Page 14



Alexis



E pluribus unum

Years ago, I headed the national conversation “E Pluribus Unum” or “Out of Many, One” sponsored by the Humanities Council. It was a program implemented by President Clinton to foster understanding among peoples across the country in what has become a multicultural society.

It promotes the notion that society functions best when immigrants stick to the “melting pot model of assimilation” or integration. It's an ideal thing to have but one that is equally absurd, if not unrealistic, for what it promotes is incoherence, misguidance, and ignorance.

Advocates call for a society in which immigrants forsake their cultural roots and adopt one American culture. But none has ever defined specifically, much less successfully, what they mean by “American culture.” Invariably, they traffic in “gushing nationalistic platitudes about American exceptionalism.” The obvious lack of definition only confuses the discussion from the outset.

“America may be the greatest nation in the world, but it isn't perfect at everything. America has a lot to learn from other cultures—just as other cultures can learn a lot from America. The sociological melting pot idea rests on the dazzlingly hubristic premise that immigrants have little cultural value to offer the Western world,” wrote Chidike Okeem out of the *Washington Times*’ “community” section.

“It is a statement of fact that many immigrant societies are exponentially more conservative than American society. Asking immigrants to enter an American melting pot is essentially asking them to diminish their philosophical conservatism.

“Many believers in the melting pot hold that immigrants often come to America to escape their cultures. This may be true for refugees and people who lived in oppressive communist countries. However, it is not true that many come to America because they are champing at the bit to put on cowboy hats and watch Country Music Television. Immigrants move to America for the economic opportunities that it offers.

“Given the history of the United States, the farcicality of this concept needs no further elucidation. Demanding that people ‘melt’ their native cultures in order to be ‘authentically American’ is troublingly totalitarian. All cultures have positive and negative aspects. Advocates of the melting pot, however, want people to simplistically believe that American culture is all good, and other cultures are all bad—except for their foods.

“In many ways, the melting pot model of assimilation is the sibling of the harebrained concept of social colorblindness. The melting pot model of assimilation is an outlandishly utopian contrivance. This model is supposed to improve intercultural relations by fantasizing that only American culture exists and matters.”

Okeem's assertion bears truth to the misguided notion about American culture assimilation that lacks definition. If I were to learn and embrace it from the standpoint of food, are we talking beans

By JOHN DELROSARIO
Special to the Saipan Tribune

John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands.



and beef jerky, country songs, cowboy hats and boots, punk rock and lewd rock shows like Miley Cyrus' deplorable behavior or just what is it? Do I toss off my culture to begin the long journey to find an undefined culture across the country?

We can attain greater meaning and definition of what our country stands for by focusing discussion on first principles that promotes respect for the rule of law, belief in individual liberty, limited government, and understanding the power of the free enterprise system.

A. Bennett's diatribe

The economic dystopia at home has nothing to do with Article 12 but with regressive or predatory policies, both from within and without.

May I reiterate: Our land is the birthplace of our cultural tradition, our language the anchor that sets us free to look ahead to plan for our future. Mr. Bennett, do you have a culture or language or are you a victim of history's cultural shipwreck?

What is the American way? Is it the growing “administrative state” or fourth branch of government where citizens are ruled by thousands of regulations crafted by federal bureaucrats we didn't elect into office? Did you forget what Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. said 50 years ago?

“In a sense we've come to our nation's capital to cash a check. When the architects of our republic wrote the magnificent words of the Constitution and the declaration of independence, they were signing a promissory note to which every American was to fall heir.

“This note was a promise that all men, yes, black men as well as white men, would be guaranteed the ‘unalienable rights’ of ‘life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.’ It is obvious today that America has defaulted on this promissory note, insofar as her citizens of color are concerned. Instead of honoring this sacred obligation, America has given the Negro people a bad check, a check that has come back marked ‘insufficient funds.’

“But we refuse to believe that the bank of justice is bankrupt. We refuse to believe that there are insufficient funds in the great vaults of opportunity of this nation. And so, we've come to cash this check, a check that will give us upon demand the riches of freedom and the security of justice.

“We have also come to this hallowed spot to remind America of

See PLURIBUS on Next Page

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Sour on sweet

Sugar is an essential part of the Commonwealth diet. After all, it takes a soda to wash down the canned luncheon meat and potato chips that fly off the shelves of our sari-sari stores, and our ubiquitous hotel luncheons are often followed by lush deserts. But the temper of the times may be turning sour on the sweet stuff, at least in some places.

New York City made international headlines last year when it banned the sale of sugary sodas over 16 ounces in size. I think the ban was swatted down by the courts but it's still being hashed out.

Earlier this week international headlines spooned out more sugar stuff. The head of the Dutch health service reportedly called sugar the "most dangerous drug of the times" and called for heavy regulation of it.

Most dangerous drug? That's pretty heavy.

But I'll admit that sugar can sure be sneaky. I once had a quick snack and afterwards, out of idle curiosity, I added up how much sugar it contained. It amounted to something like 20 teaspoons worth. Yikes. I wrote about it in this space in 2009 to warn my fellow slobes that it's easy to let a lot of sugar past the gate if we're not careful.

Here's a theory that makes sense to me: When we are very young our palates form their long-term preferences. A sweet tooth in youth can mean a sugar junkie in adulthood. I'm lucky I dodged that bullet; my parents were never on board the sugar express.

But not even they could claim a perfect record. Sugary cereals were marketed so effectively during Saturday morning cartoons that my sister and I would pester Mom to buy the stuff.

The cereal ads were memorable. How do I know? Because I still remember them.

Just like the regular cartoons, the animated ads had characters and

sometimes they even had little plots. I remember Cap'n Crunch, an affable guy with a merry crew. And a cereal called Quisp was pitched by a quirky spaceman character with a propeller on his head.

Even animated animals got in on the act: Tony the Tiger sold Frosted Flakes and Toucan Sam hawked Fruit Loops.

You may not be familiar with all of those characters. But you surely remember Michael Jackson. Well, he's part of the story, too.

Before Jackson was a solo star he was the kid in a group called the Jackson Five. A brand of sugary cereal (I forget which one) pressed a record of a Jackson Five song right into the cereal box itself. Who thinks this stuff up? I don't know, but I have to admire such devious brilliance.

As soon as that plan was hatched, millions of harried mothers all over the nation were besieged by an army of screaming brats demanding that cereal.

My mother was utterly opposed to the concept of eating a bowl of sugar for breakfast. But she didn't have many good options in this battle. Cap'n Crunch had led the charge, Quisp and the Jackson Five had her pinned down with a marketing enfilade, and Tony the Tiger roared around the perimeter while Toucan Sam flew air support.

So we got our sugary cereal. We didn't acquire much of a taste for it and we soon settled back into our normal fare. Thus went the sugar wars on the home front.

Many commonly consumed things have been blacklisted, gray-listed, or at least widely suspected over the years. The U.S. banned booze from 1920 through 1933; and, in fact, it is still illegal to sell in some parts of the mainland. Tobacco is out of favor in the U.S. these days, and though it's still sold, it is heavily taxed and often red-zoned out of use. Salt has on-again off-again status as a sus-

pected ne'er do well.

Fat is often blamed for many ills, and trans fats (whatever those are) have been outlawed for restaurant use in some U.S. cities. Meat is cited by some as unhealthy. Some grains have bad-guy status because of gluten. Carbohydrates are also on the villain list in some circles. And let's not forget eggs: I remember when the cholesterol content seemed to rival plutonium for presumed lethality.

By ED STEPHENS

Special to the Saipan Tribune

Visit Ed Stephens Jr. at EdStephensJr.com.
His column runs every Friday.



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Don't ask me to judge these things, though; I'm not part of any arguments one way or the other. After all, even something as ubiquitous and natural as sunshine can provoke strong opinions in the health realm, so these types of skirmishes are no place for innocent bystanders like me.

Anyway, I know you're getting ready for the weekend, so if you want to heed all the warnings, just remember these simple guidelines: no sun, no smokes, no sweets, no fat, no carbs, no meat, no grain, no salt, no eggs and no beer.

In other words, whatever you had planned for your weekend is now off limits.

But you can still watch for the green flash at happy hour as long as you toast it with distilled water served from an approved BPA-free container. Ain't life grand?

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The next 100 days

Section 20 of CNMI Constitution's Article 3 states, "Membership in an employees' retirement system of the Commonwealth shall constitute a contractual relationship. Accrued benefits of this system shall be neither diminished nor impaired." Once the settlement agreement is approved by the District Court and for every year that the settlement fund cannot pay the remaining 25 percent unpaid pension, we lose that right to claim the 25 percent forever. The settlement fund can further decrease our benefits as stipulated in the settlement agreement and we will have no say so whatsoever because as a class member we are consenting to waive our rights protected by our Constitution.

For some of us, the 25-percent reduction in our benefits is still sustainable but for majority of us who are earning far less, we will suffer. Many of us will be delinquent in our obligations to the point of nightmare. Our government is encouraging retirees not to opt out from the settlement agreement. This encouragement is nothing but a "handwashing" to clear our government from its constitutional obligation to retirees as a result of years of neglect, complacency, and "scratch-my-back" politics.

It is interesting that the elected leaders are acknowledging that the Fund problems are the result of many years of nonpayment. I wonder who they are blaming for the nonpayment? Maybe one of their scapegoat is P.L. 15-15, allowing for a contribution holiday for close to two years. How many legislators from the 15th Legislature are still in the 18th Legislature?

Which administration contributed to the problems of the NMI Retirement Fund? During the Fitial/Villagomez administration, let us not forget that Gov. Inos was Finance secretary, when the administration's policy of developing its strategy to abandon the defined

benefit plan began to be implemented. The governor's generous acceptance of the settlement agreement was an intentional design to eliminate the defined benefit plan without regard for the thousands of retirees' life that will be extremely affected, not to mention their constitutional rights that will be violated!

Let all retirees keep in mind that our past and current leaders started the process to abandon their constitutional obligations to us retirees through a series of excuses and scapegoats such as "the economy is bad" but yet they continue to be complacent in introducing revenue-generation legislations, no budgeted revenue to pay the Superior Court's judgment of \$231 million which it legally and contractually owes the Fund, encouraging employees to "cash out" of the DBP to join a defined contribution plan, knowing that it is an inferior and inadequate program, passing a legislation that eventually became a public law allowing active DB employees to withdraw their contributions, and then encouraging active employees to join the U.S. Social Security System. This is a deliberate strategy on the part of our government to further weaken the NMI Fund. The latest deliberate strategy is the establishment of a settlement fund by the settlement agreement in which Gov. Inos generously accepted to comply. If we decide not to opt out we will no longer be DB members of the NMI Fund and we will no longer have the protection of Section 20 of NMI Constitution's Article 3. This deliberate strategy is more than a "handwashing"; it is a debtor's (the NMI government) maneuver to "kill off" its largest creditor (the Retirement Fund) and at the end we the retirees are the ones who will greatly suffer the rest of our lives if we do not opt out and make our government and all the "make-believers" politicians accountable!

I will tip my hat off and support the act of those Senate members who drafted a resolution encouraging retirees to opt out, believing that the CNMI Constitution protects us retirees who will decide to opt out of the settlement agreement. To opt out should not just be about the 25-percent cut; it's a violation of our constitutional rights and the liability

ties that Gov. Inos has generously agreed upon in the settlement. Our children will be the one paying the price to include the ridiculous \$40 million legal fee. How about the members of the House of Representatives? Are you going to protect our constitutional rights?

It has become a favorite phase of our politicians: "If you opt out you will not be able to benefit from the settlement fund and you will not be able to claim against the settlement fund." This is nothing more than scare tactics for us not to opt out. Our constitutional right is supreme and it is our government's contractual obligation to all retirees. Don't be afraid. Kill the settlement agreement by opting out!

It is a tradition after election for those elected to give them 100 days to accomplish what they promised when elected. For the next 100 days I call upon all elected leaders to redeem the credibility of the institution to which you are elected into to do the right thing to ensure that retirees' constitutional right to their pension is upheld. Stop deceiving retirees that you do not want to cut their benefits by 25 percent because you already did by encouraging retirees not to opt out. Do not ask retirees to give you politicians more time to work on a solution when you are re-elected because you only have 100 days to redemption or be excluded in the upcoming election. After all, every politician from the governor to the lawmakers, you all took an oath that you will support and defend the Constitution and laws of the CNMI, the Covenant, and the Constitution of the United States and that you will faithfully discharge your duties to the best of your abilities. What happened now? You are violating the Constitution instead. Did you forget the oath of office that you all took? Is killing the CNMI Retirement Fund program and transferring the assets to the Betty Johnson settlement fund "the best of your abilities"?

Shame on all of you that will not stand up to support and defend the Constitution and laws of the CNMI that are being violated during your watch by none other than you!

Jesus Taisague

Koblerville, Saipan

Oranges and apples

Juicy oranges: I am so grateful for the excellent Retirement Fund settlement where we will receive 75 percent pension hopefully for our lifetime.

Rotten apples: The excessively high legal fees, which are separate from the settlement.

The settlement is a done deal, unless too many people misunderstand the deal, and opt out. Please, please, please don't opt out. Then the Fund will dry up entirely in less than a year. The governor and government will negotiate on the fees. But just because the fees are outrageous does not affect the settlement. Don't confuse the juicy orange with the rotten apple.

When everything failed, Betty Johnson brought a class action suit on

behalf of all retirees. What did any of the rest of us do? Only complain and whine. She actually picked herself up and dusted herself off, found a lawyer and a legal office, and initiated action that *will help all of us*. She is *not* the one who decided on the legal fees. So thank you, Betty, for having the courage and foresight to actually do something useful other than wring hands and write unhappy letters.

Oranges = good settlement and continued pension; apples = overly greedy lawyers. The two are not the same. Please do not opt out of the settlement.

Angelyn Sills

via email

PLURIBUS

From Page 10






the fierce urgency of Now. This is no time to engage in the luxury of cooling off or to take the tranquilizing drug of gradualism. Now is the time to make real the promises of democracy."

Mr. Bennett has a lot to read about constitutionalism that can be found by perusing the first principles, 58 federalist papers and other related literature. Are you a hawker of the concept of "gradualism," Mr. Bennett? Where's your credibility as a self-anointed constitutional scholar? Arguments are only as good as the truth that gives it value and strength. Shooting off the hip is an injustice to logic and reason. What else are you not? Reading off the wrong page?

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
				
Mostly cloudy with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms. Northwest winds 15 to 20 mph.	Mostly cloudy with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms. Northwest winds 15 to 20 mph.	Mostly cloudy with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms.	Mostly cloudy with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms.	Partly sunny with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms.
▲84° ▼76°	▲84° ▼76°	▲85° ▼76°	▲85° ▼76°	▲86° ▼76°

Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	▲86 ▼78
Palau	Showers	▲87 ▼77
Yap	Thunderstorms	▲89 ▼78
Chuuk	Cloudy	▲87 ▼79
Pohnpei	Showers	▲87 ▼73
Kosrae	Showers	▲87 ▼73
Majuro	Thunderstorms	▲85 ▼80

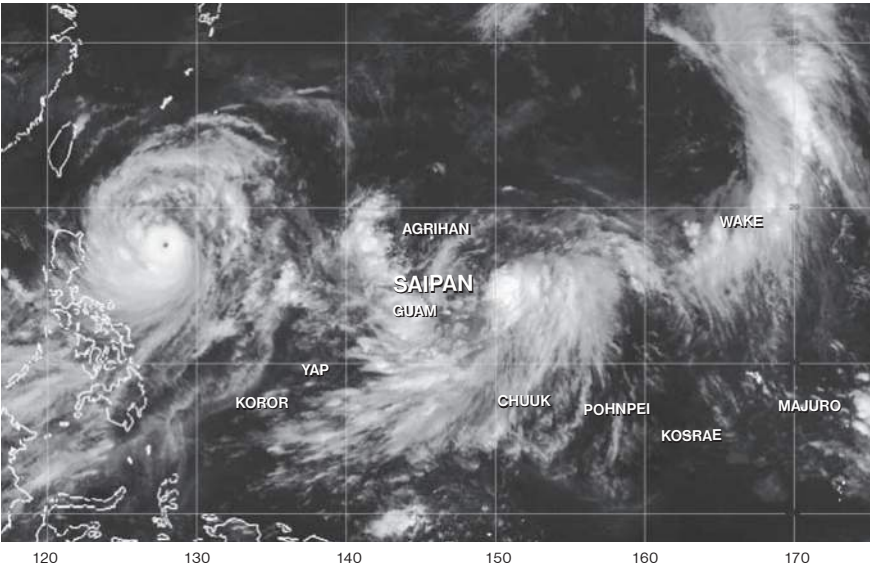
Around The Globe

Auckland	Rain	▲64 ▼59
Beijing	Partly Cloudy	▲82 ▼60
Hong Kong	Partly Cloudy	▲92 ▼81
Honolulu	Showers	▲89 ▼74
London	Partly Cloudy	▲63 ▼52
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	▲81 ▼60
Manila	Thundershowers	▲83 ▼79
Melbourne	Showers	▲64 ▼43
Miami	Thundershowers	▲86 ▼75
New York	Sunny	▲76 ▼56
Osaka	Sunny	▲87 ▼69
Paris	Partly Cloudy	▲67 ▼51
Pusan	Sunny	▲84 ▼70
Rome	Mostly Sunny	▲78 ▼65
Salem	Partly Cloudy	▲82 ▼54
San Francisco	Sunny	▲75 ▼58
Seoul	Partly Cloudy	▲83 ▼66
Tokyo	Sunny	▲85 ▼68
Washington, DC	Sunny	▲80 ▼61

Tides

Saipan Harbor			
2:59 AM	Today	Low Tide:	0.3 Feet
8:53 AM	Today	High Tide:	2.0 Feet
3:17 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.3 Feet
9:07 PM	Today	High Tide:	2.0 Feet

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 2013
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Typhoon Usagi (17W) is centered well northwest of Yap at 17N128E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are seen west of a line from 24N135E to 16N135E to 8N130E. For more information on Usagi, see bulletins issued by the Joint Typhoon Warning Center under WMO header WTPN32 PGTW. A tropical disturbance is centered east of Saipan at 14N148E. A large area of scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms extends from northeast of Saipan across Guam to near Chuuk to south of Minami Tori Shima within an area bounded by a line from 20N139E to 3N143E to 8N158E to 19N158E back to 20N139E. A surface trough curves northeastward from the tropical disturbance at 14N148E to near Wake Island at 20N165E to beyond 25N at 170E. An upper-level trough curves southeast from north of 25N162E to 17N167E. These features are combining to produce scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms across Wake Island within 200 miles of a line from 25N169E to 18N167E to 14N160E. Trade-wind convergence is generating scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms east of Majuro and Butaritari east of a line from 9N175E to 3N175E to EQ179E.

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:06 AM	6:15 PM
Saturday	6:06 AM	6:14 PM
Sunday	6:06 AM	6:13 PM
Monday	6:06 AM	6:13 PM
Tuesday	6:06 AM	6:12 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	6:43 PM	6:27 AM
Saturday	7:27 PM	7:22 AM
Sunday	8:12 PM	8:16 AM
Monday	8:58 PM	9:09 AM
Tuesday	9:45 PM	10:01 AM

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

- PICTURES**
 - ISLAND SNAPSHOTS Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
 - BIRTHDAY GREETINGS A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
 - BUSINESS Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
 - SAMUT SARI Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
 - TRAVELOGUE Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.
- ANNOUNCEMENTS**
 - COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
■ CAMPUS BULLETIN Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

- For pictures:**
- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
 - Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
 - Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
 - Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
 - For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.
- For announcements:**
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when),

the name of contact person, and a phone number.
■ Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

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 - Fax: (670) 235-3740
 - Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
 - Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
- To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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- The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to accept or reject a contribution for publication; the right to edit all contributions, the date of publication, size of the picture, and page placement; and the right to publish contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats.
- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

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ADVERTISING For inquiries contact (670) 235-2769. E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF SEPTEMBER 10, 2013

DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)				GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA5070	4:35am	5:25am	2, 4, 6, 7	UA 5069	2:45am	3:35am	2, 4, 6, 7
UA5062	4:50am	5:40am	1, 3, 5	UA5071	7:15am	8:05am	Daily
UA5068	8:35am	9:25am	Daily	UA5073	10:00am	10:50am	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7
UA5074	11:20am	12:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7	UA5075	1:45pm	2:35pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA5076	3:10pm	4:00pm	Daily	UA5077	5:35pm	6:25pm	Daily
UA5078	6:55pm	7:45pm	Daily	UA5079	8:20pm	9:10pm	Daily
UA5072	9:45pm	10:35pm	Daily				
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)				GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)			
DL287	6:05am	8:40am	Daily	UA5062	2:40am	3:15am	1, 3, 5
DL285	6:35am	9:10am	1, 6	UA5038	10:10am	10:45am	6
DL297	4:35pm	7:20pm	Daily				
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)				ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN			
OZ608	3:10am	6:20am	1, 4, 5, 7	UA5062	3:45am	4:20am	1, 3, 5
				UA5038	11:15am	11:50am	6
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)				NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN			
OZ606	2:20am	6:00am	1	DL298	10:25am	3:05pm	Daily
OZ606	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	DL286	8:00pm	12:35am+1	5, 7
OZ604	3:30pm	6:55pm	Daily	DL288	8:55pm	1:30am+1	Daily
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)				BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN			
3U8648	6:10am	8:40am	1, 4, 5, 7	OZ607	9:05pm	1:55am+1	3, 4, 6, 7
SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)				SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN			
MU764	4:10am	8:00am	1, 5	OZ603	8:50am	2:20pm	Daily
				OZ605	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
				OZ605	8:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)				SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN			
3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6	3U8647	10:40pm	5:00am+1	3, 4, 6, 7
SAIPAN-KHABAROVSK (KHV)				BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN			
SYL9950	6:40pm	1:30am+1	7	MU763	7:55pm	3:10am+1	4, 7
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)				GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN			
OZ606/701	2:20am	11:05am	1 via ICN	3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5
OZ606/701	2:50am	11:05am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN	KHABAROVSK (KHV)-SAIPAN			
UA5070/191	4:35am	9:55am	6 via GUM	SYL9949	12:45pm	5:20pm	7
UA5062/191	4:50am	9:55am	3 via GUM	MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
DL287/173	6:05am	10:05pm	Daily via NRT	PR110/UA5072	7:35am	6:25pm	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
UA5068/PR111	8:35am	4:45pm	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM	DL172/288	7:55am	1:30am+1	Daily via NRT
			1, 5, 7 via GUM	UA190/5079	10:55am	9:10pm	3, 6 via GUM
UA5074/PR111	11:20am	4:45pm	1, 5, 7 via GUM	OZ702/605	12:15pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
UA5076/183	3:10pm	8:45pm	2, 5 via GUM	OZ702/605	12:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
UA5076/183	3:10pm	9:10pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM	UA184/5071	10:25pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
OZ604/703	3:30pm	10:45pm	Daily via ICN	UA184/5071	11:35pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via GUM
				OZ704/603	11:45pm	2:20pm+1	Daily via ICN
SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)				HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN			
OZ606/721	2:20am	11:50am	1 via ICN	OZ746/603	12:30am	2:20pm	Daily via ICN
OZ606/721	2:50am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN	OZ722/605	1:10pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
UA5076/147	3:10pm	9:50pm	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM	OZ722/605	1:10pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
OZ604/745	3:30pm	10:40pm	Daily via ICN	UA180/5071	10:45pm	8:05am+1	1, 5 via GUM
				UA180/5071	10:50pm	8:05am+1	3, 6 GUM
LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U: Sichuan Airlines; MU: China Eastern; UA: United Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana; VLK: Vladivostok Air; SYL: Yakutia Air.				ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The <i>Saipan Tribune</i> is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)			

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency	Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota				FRE 115	13:00	13:10	Daily
FRE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily	FRE 117	14:30	14:40	Daily
Rota-Saipan				FRE 119	16:00	16:10	Daily
FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily	FRE 121	16:40	16:50	Daily
Guam-Rota				FRE 123	17:40	17:50	Daily
FRE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily	FRE 125	18:30	18:40	Daily
Rota-Saipan							
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily	Tinian-Saipan			
Saipan-Rota				FRE 102	7:05	7:15	Daily
FRE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily	FRE 104	7:50	8:00	Daily
Rota-Guam				FRE 106	8:20	8:30	Daily
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily	FRE 108	9:00	9:10	Daily
Saipan-Tinian				FRE 110	10:00	10:10	Daily
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily	FRE 112	11:05	11:15	Daily
				FRE 114	12:00	12:10	Daily
				FRE 116	13:30	13:40	Daily
				FRE 118	14:50	15:00	Daily
				FRE 120	16:20	16:30	Daily
				FRE 122	17:00	17:10	Daily
				FRE 124	18:05	18:15	Daily
				FRE 126	18:50	19:00	Daily



NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Don't burn your bridges, Kilili

Is Congressman Gregorio Sablan affected by the legislative resolution introduced by Rep. Felicidad Ogomoro of the CNMI Legislature? Don't burn your bridges on this, Mr. Sablan. Minimize the rhetoric and declare which side are you protecting for the good of the indigenous people who call these islands their homeland. The cockamamie remarks showing your hesitation on this matter based on the reason that you have not received the actual text of this resolution was bothersome to people that you represent. The text of the resolution was published by the local media, which you should consider as constructive receipt for purpose of public information. It is sad that you are taking a very passive stand on the immigration issue that would politically destroy the future of a people that placed you in office as their representative in the U.S. Congress. If the sweeping immigration legislation ever becomes law, it would take the following election to wipe out the existence of a people that made these islands what it is, the "isla de notte Mariana." The CNMI anthem would no longer hold true and our political destiny is over. Is this what you want?

To the indigenous people of the CNMI, if we take this matter passively—as what Mr. Gregorio Sablan seems to be leading us with silence—count the days that your next governor and other elected representatives would be none of the people who made these islands known all the over the world as the islands of the Chamorro and Carolinian people who are indigenous to these islands. If the federal government would find Sen. Juan Ayuyu guilty of a crime under the Endangered Species Act for killing protected fruit bats, the indigenous people of the NMI are human beings that would be worth protecting like the fruit bat colony in some part of the jungle on the same

islands inhabited by these people. Is this an argument that Mr. Gregorio Sablan could champion with the federal government on behalf of the people that he himself is part of?

Mr. Gregorio Sablan, speak up for the indigenous people of the CNMI and let us know that you care for the future generation of the people that made you what you are in the U.S. Congress. If that is not in your motive, let me say this, a word would be born to this effect. Bill O'Reilly wrote "Killing Lincoln," "Killing Kennedy," and "Killing Jesus," but in the CNMI Mr. Gregorio Sablan would be known for "Killing the indigenous NMI people." The word "Kilili" would be a noun identifying a person that represented these people in the U.S. Congress and failed them, resulting in their demise from taking control and enjoyment of the value of their own islands handed down to them by their ancestors. If Mr. Gregorio Sablan thinks that the sweeping immigration bill in the U.S. Congress is good for the indigenous people of the CNMI, then we all made the mistake of placing this person in that office for failure to champion our stake for the future of these islands.

We, the indigenous people of these islands, should begin talking among each other and taking a stand that we would move on in solidarity because all these islands are our gifts from our ancestors. Unless we act as indigenous people, our destiny and identity is only good until the next general election after the passage of the sweeping immigration bill now tossing around in Congress. And that time is not in our favor. It is a serious matter for all indigenous people of the NMI. Think about it!

Francisco R. Agulto
Kannat Tabla, Saipan

BOAT FOR SALE

YAMAHA PC-41, year of 1998, twin engines
\$215,000.00



1998 YAMAHA RS-41, Twin engines HINO, 750 HP

- Engines have 1,430 hours
- 350 gal. Fuel Tank
- Depth sounder, Radar, GPS
- 2 Cabins with a capacity of 15 people
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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

A shameful discrimination against adopted children

House Legislative Initiative 18-1, which was recently passed by the CNMI Legislature and will be on the ballot in the 2014 general election, proposes to amend Article 12 of the NMI Constitution. The proposed amendment will change the minimum blood quantum requirement from "25 percent" to "any degree of NMI descent" for a person to be able to acquire fee simple ownership of land in the NMI. This is a step in the right direction, because the proposed amendment is less restrictive than the present Article 12 requirement. But the amendment still falls short because it is not inclusive of all members of the NMI community.

What is also very troubling about this initiative is the ad-

ditional language in the proposed amendment that would prohibit a non-NMD child adopted by NMI-descent parents from owning or inheriting land from the adopting parents. This prohibition clearly smacks of prejudice and racism. It reminds me of Adolf Hitler, the abominable German dictator, who in the 1930s, pursued with a blind passion his hateful belief that his race, the Aryan race, was superior to all other races.

Protectionist laws that discriminate against and exclude other members of society from receiving the same benefits that others receive will, sooner or later, harm a community. How would you like to be an adopted child and be excluded from the

dinner table because you are not one of the biological children? Such exclusion will have a major, adverse psychological impact on the adopted child. Is the CNMI going to keep on passing laws that exclude other members of our community from benefiting equally under our laws? Are we going to keep on excluding non-NMD persons in our community from having the same benefits given persons of NMI descent? If we don't correct this unfairness and injustice, our community will continue practicing this form of apartheid. Such practice promotes a climate of superiority against non-NMD members of our community. It also hinders our ability as a community to

mature and become tolerant of others who are of a different ethnicity or background.

I strongly urge all citizens of the CNMI to please reconsider the harmful impact that the Article 12 proposed amendment would have

against adopted children who are not of NMI descent. Such an amendment would be harmful to all of us in the NMI.

Jose S. Dela Cruz
Navy Hill, Saipan

'The Hammer'

The most meaningful and joyous moment that a husband can do everyday is to make his wife happy 365 days a year, 24 hours a day, and 7 days a week.

When a husband punches or beats up his wife, that husband is a coward in the first degree. When the children see the physical action of the husband, then the children experience real trauma. When the police

are called to the rescue, then the husband is arrested. At the end of the day, the husband is penniless, confused, smokeless, foodless, and homeless.

A wife that receives constant blows of anger from her husband must seek the court's assistance. A husband that likes to punch his wife must be put in jail. The judge's bench these days is zero-tolerance when it comes to domestic violence. The judge has a gavel for other misdemeanor cases but it has a heavy, special one for domestic violence. It's called "The Hammer." The Hammer is 100 percent in precision when it hits a defendant.

The next time you plan to punch your wife, look at yourself in the mirror and don't even think about doing it. Remember, the TRO is waiting to meet you anytime, anywhere, and any place...you name it.

Martin M. Sakisat
Garapan, Saipan

SHOOTING

From Page 10

problems. Access to guns, whether legally or not. Attraction to violent video games. Delusions of grandeur. Inability to move past disappointment or personal slight.

Is there a type for the American mass killer? It would seem so.

The obvious problem is that while all armed, isolated, irritable, mentally ill gamers should be considered capable of such heinous acts, very few—almost none, in fact—commit them. The percentage of Americans in mental health treatment who injure or kill is infinitesimal, as is the proportion of U.S. homicide deaths that result from mass killings.

Still, almost isn't none. And more families grieve today.

If we care enough to care at all, we must continue searching for answers beyond the talking points that push one side's politics into the other side's face. As Americans, we value lives in a free society. Yet we can never stop weighing rights vs. responsibilities, risk vs. restriction.

We must keep searching for answers. When we stop, when we throw up our hands and lock our doors in fear and frustration, we lose ourselves and we lose our society.

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Morning News



6th Annual

Saipan Chamber of Commerce/Steven Brownstein

G O L F C L A S S I C



LAO LAO BAY
GOLF & RESORT

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 5, 2013

SHOW TIME: 6:00 A.M. + SHOTGUN START: 7:00 A.M. + BANQUET GUESTS: \$20.00/PERSON

EARLY REGISTRATION FEE: \$99.95/PERSON
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HOLE #13
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2.	\$ 600.00
3.	\$ 400.00

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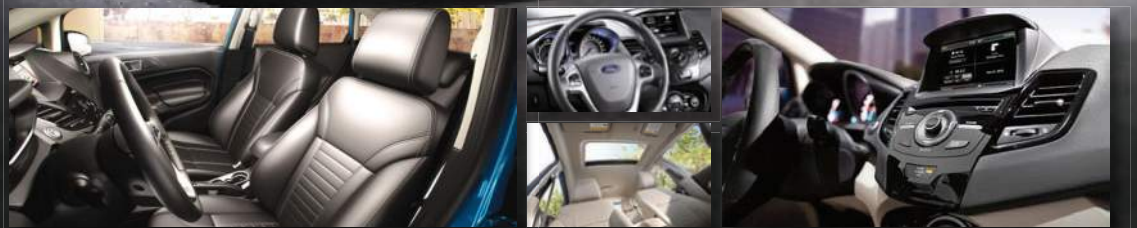
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From its grille, headlamps, available fog lamps and trim to its sleek new hood with distinctive character lines, the Fiesta features a new, more sculpted look. Adding to its appeal are all the choices the Fiesta offers. For starters, do you crave a sedan or hatch? Which color do you want it in? You have 10 eye-catching colors to choose from.

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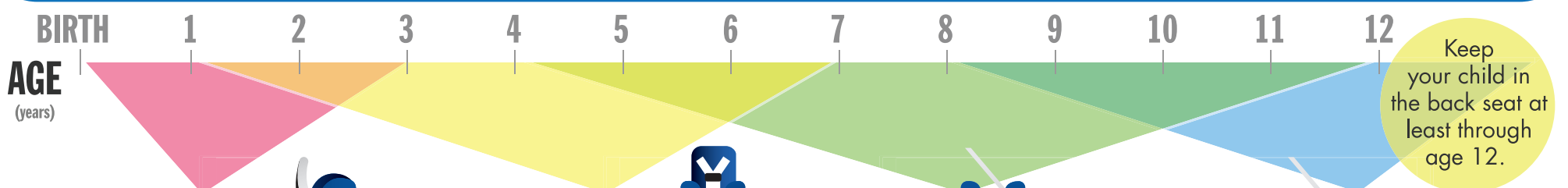
NATIONAL/CNMI CHILD PASSENGER SAFETY WEEK SEPTEMBER 15 – 21, 2013

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Car Seat Recommendations for Children

- Select a car seat based on your child's age and size, and choose a seat that fits in your vehicle and use it every time.
- Always refer to your specific car seat manufacturer's instructions; read the vehicle owner's manual on how to install the car seat using the seat belt or LATCH system; and check height and weight limits.
- To maximize safety, keep your child in the car seat for as long as possible, as long as the child fits within the manufacturer's height and weight requirements.
- Keep your child in the back seat at least through age 12.



REAR-FACING CAR SEAT

Your child under age 1 should always ride in a rear-facing car seat. There are different types of rear-facing car seats: Infant-only seats can only be used rear-facing. Convertible and 3-in-1 car seats typically have higher height and weight limits for the rear-facing position, allowing you to keep your child rear-facing for a longer period of time.

FORWARD-FACING CAR SEAT

Keep your child rear-facing as long as possible. It's the best way to keep him or her safe. Your child should remain in a rear-facing car seat until he or she reaches the top height or weight limit allowed by your car seat's manufacturer. Once your child outgrows the rear-facing car seat, your child is ready to travel in a forward-facing car seat with a harness.

BOOSTER SEAT

Keep your child in a forward-facing car seat with a harness until he or she reaches the top height or weight limit allowed by your car seat's manufacturer. Once your child outgrows the forward-facing car seat with a harness, it's time to travel in a booster seat, but still in the back seat.

SEATBELT

Keep your child in a booster seat until he or she is big enough to fit in a seat belt properly. For a seat belt to fit properly the lap belt must lie snugly across the upper thighs, not the stomach. The shoulder belt should lie snug across the shoulder and chest and not cross the neck or face. Remember: your child should still ride in the back seat because it's safer there.

DESCRIPTION (RESTRAINT TYPE)



A **REAR-FACING CAR SEAT** is the best seat for your young child to use. It has a harness and in a crash, cradles and moves with your child to reduce the stress to the child's fragile neck and spinal cord.



A **FORWARD-FACING CAR SEAT** has a harness and tether that limits your child's forward movement during a crash.



A **BOOSTER SEAT** positions the seat belt so that it fits properly over the stronger parts of your child's body.



A **SEAT BELT** should lie across the upper thighs and be snug across the shoulder and chest to restrain the child safely in a crash. It should not rest on the stomach area or across the neck.



Anchor. Tether.
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of child safety.

CAR SEAT COURTESY CHECK-UP – SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 2013 • 7:00AM - 12:00PM, SABALU FARMERS MARKET, SUSUPE

For more information please contact CNMI Department of Public Safety-Highway Safety Office at Saipan 664-9001/9085 • Tinian 433-9222/2041 • Rota 532-9433/9530

Last stranded vessel removed from Tinian reef

Contractors were finally able to remove fishing vessel *Il Sin Ho* from the reef on Kammer Beach earlier Wednesday evening.

Once the *Il Sin Ho* was clear of the reef, it was towed to a pier on Tinian for the removal of any remaining oily water.

The vessel was one of three that broke their moorings over the weekend due to the bad weather and got stranded on the Kammer Beach reef. The two other vessels were removed from the reef earlier this week.

The U.S. Coast Guard Sector Guam, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and agencies from the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands monitored the response operations as contractors continued with oily water



Il Sin Ho is towed to a pier on Tinian for the removal of any remaining oily water.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Division of Public Health Services



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The WIC Program is a federally funded program that offers nutrition and breastfeeding education, supplemental nutritious foods, and referrals to community resources, to women, infants, and children.

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Admin: (670) 664-4067 • Fax: (670) 664-4040

website: www.cnmiwic.org

Are you a pregnant or breastfeeding WIC mom and in need of breastfeeding information or help?

If so, COME and see our WIC Breastfeeding Peer Counselors!

- ✓ They share basic breastfeeding information with pregnant and breastfeeding women.
- ✓ Share their own breastfeeding experiences.
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- ✓ Encourage and support women to initiate and continue breastfeeding.
- ✓ Show you how to hold and breastfeed your baby.
- ✓ Share information on how to make plenty of milk.
- ✓ Provide a one-to-one counseling visit in the clinic or by telephone.
- ✓ They are also available when ever you need help.
- ✓ Provide continued follow-up, help and support as needed.
- ✓ Educate women about breastfeeding one-on-one through a group setting with other WIC moms.
- ✓ Help new moms overcome or avoid breastfeeding problems and offer solutions.
- ✓ Help you plan how breastfeeding can continue when you return to work or school.
- ✓ Be there for you when things don't go as you planned.
- ✓ Listen to your concerns.

You can call them at 664-4085

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Individuals who are deaf, hard of hearing or have speech disabilities may contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339; or (800) 845-6136 (Spanish).

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removal and vessel salvage.

The Unified Command worked as a team to provide a coordinated response for the mitigation of hazards to the environment, reduced impact to the reef, and maintained unobstructed access of the navigational channel. The Unified Command included the vessel owner, CNMI Department of

Public Safety, Commonwealth Port Authority, CNMI Division of Environmental Quality, Coastal Resource Management, Department of Lands and Natural Resources (Fish and Wildlife Division), Tinian Mayor's Office, CNMI Homeland Security and Emergency Management, NOAA, and U.S. Coast Guard Sector Guam. (USCG)

Chamorro psycholinguistics language experiment looks for native speakers

The *Chamorro Psycholinguistics na Project* is seeking native Chamorro speakers, 18 years or over, to take a National Science Foundation-funded project experiment at the Saipan Chamorro-Carolinian Cultural Center. The experiment is conducted in Chamorro and will take no more than 15 minutes. Anyone interested may stop by the Cultural Center, which is located at 1213 Capitol Hill Road, on Capital Hill, on Saturday, Sept. 21, 2013, anytime from 8am to 2pm.

The general purpose of the experiment is to learn how Chamorro speakers use the Chamorro

language. Learning how we use language (in general) helps us uncover principles of how the mind works. Smaller languages like Chamorro are not often included in scientific studies and this experiment tries to change that. Chamorro language contains many unique and valuable features and understanding them will improve the quality of the general theories of the human mind.

The *Chamorro Psycholinguistics na Project* thanks the members of the community for their willingness to participate.

For more information, call 483-4441. (PR)

ME group to host bike fundraiser

The CNMI Chapter of the Worldwide Marriage Encounter is a non-profit organization designed to help married couples live a more harmonious life through enhanced communication skills. The next Marriage Encounter Weekend is set for Nov. 8-10, 2013, at the Kanoa Resort Saipan where approximately 25 couples will be "Encountered." Each Weekend is a financial endeavor to raise \$10,000 to cover the costs of the hotel, meals, and materials for all the couples and the presenters. As such, Worldwide Marriage Encounter is organizing a series of fundraising activities this season.

On Sunday, Oct. 13, 2013, ME is preparing for the Pre-HOM Fundraising Bike Race for the island's cycling community starting at Mariana Re-

sort & Spa. The start and finish will mimic the HOM Race on Dec. 7, 2013. Cyclists who are interested in practicing part of the HOM route should definitely enter!

There will be four courses ranging in distance (50km, 25km, 16km, 8km) and the event is presented as a family-friendly activity with both kids and adult divisions. Entry fees are \$10 adults and \$5 kids (ages 6-13 years old).

The race day check-in time is 5am-5:45am, with the race start at 6am.

Race entry forms are available at Gold's Gym Saipan.

We do need the assistance from companies to sponsors for prizes! For sponsorship or race information, contact Russ and Kanae Quinn at 285-1168 or email kanae@yahoo.com. (PR)

NMTI board meets with CNMI Labor, WIA, PSS, and NMC

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUTS

Happy one month to our son Izaiah Blaze! Words cannot express how we feel but we are truly blessed to have you in our lives. We love you son! Love Mommy and Daddy.



Happy birthday to Uncle Justin C. Taitano. God bless and may you have many more birthdays to come. We love you!

The new board of the Northern Marianas Trade Institute recently met with the key public sector workforce and educational partners as part of its continuing series of key stakeholder meetings.

The NMTI board of directors met with executives of the Department of Labor, Workforce Investment Agency, Northern Marianas College, and the Public School System to renew efforts that eliminate duplication and strengthens collaboration to ensure each entity complements each other and that resources are leveraged to ensure a more holistic, wrap-around approach to meaningfully address the Commonwealth's workforce development.

NMTI board members met with acting Labor secretary Bob-

bie T. Sablan and WIA administrator Edith Deleon Guerrero on Sep. 12, 2013, at the WIA conference room on Capital Hill, with NMC president Dr. Sharon Hart and NMC apprenticeship director David J. Attao on Sep. 13, 2013, at the NMC President's Office, and with Education Commissioner Dr. Rita A. Sablan on Sep. 16, 2013, at the PSS conference room in Susupe.

The NMTI board shared its mission and commitment to partner with key stakeholders in order to meaningfully and strategically augment the CNMI's efforts to replace foreign contract workers with U.S. citizens pursuant to U.S. Public Law 110-229, especially with the looming deadline of December 2014.

U.S. PL 110-229's five-year transition period to replace

foreign contract workers with trained U.S. resident, local workforce is set to expire in December 2014.

The NMTI board met previously with Gov. Eloy Inos and 18th House Ways & Means Committee chair Rep. Tony P. Sablan and members to share the institute's successes and challenges since its opening in 2008. They will also schedule stakeholder meetings with remaining key private sector partners, including the Saipan Chamber of Commerce, Hotel Association of the NMI, Society of Human Resource Management, etc.

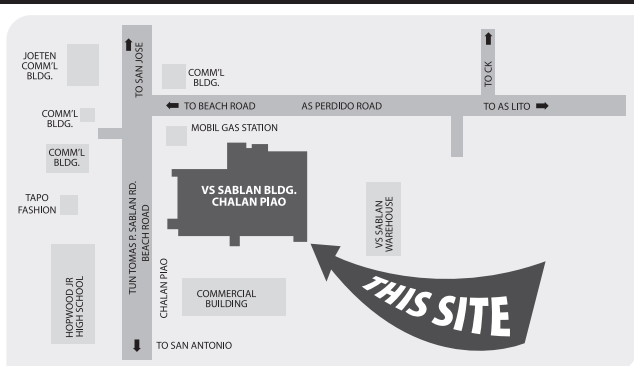
The new NMTI board believes that no other educational institution is ideally and strategically positioned to meaningfully address the longstanding

need to provide hands-on and fieldwork training and placement of U.S. resident and local employees than NMTI.

NMTI is accredited with its construction curriculum and plans to seek and obtain corresponding certification with its tourism hospitality curriculum. Further, NMTI is set to secure requisite local and federal funding in order to resume offering classes and be certified and placed at hotels, restaurants, retail establishments, wholesale distributors, power plants, auto shops, and the like.

NMTI is an educational institution eligible to receive individual and corporate tax credit contributions to augment student tuition and transportation barriers of many of its target clients. (NMTI)

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At **Our Chalan Piao Building, VSS PLAZA** we have rental space available on the **first floor** now at **65 cents per square foot** for units ranging from 541 sq. ft. to 1400 sq ft.

Large 4500 square foot space on the **second floor** that would be ideal for a Daycare Center, Dance Studio or Gym at **35¢ per square foot.**

Second Floor - Office Space, 900 sq.ft. to 1,400 sq. ft. at **50¢ per square foot.**

2nd Floor Office Space (1 Unit) Available at Chalan Kanoa, Above Bank of Saipan - **800 Sq ft per unit at 65 cents per square foot.**

For Lease - 53,500 Sq Meters Available for Lease in Kanat Tabla. Ocean View. 31 years Remaining on Lease.

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Warehouse For Lease - 6750 Square Feet with

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Located at our Chalan Piao location.

Asking **\$2,000.00 per month. Negotiable.**

Contact Tony Muna (Cell No. 888-9290 Email Address: plebechamp80@gmail.com) or Ben Sablan (Cell No. 898-2454 Email Address: vicente_sablan@yahoo.com) or Call 234-2585.

25TH ANNUAL

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INVITATION FOR BIDS
DPW13-IFB-007

Governor Eloy S. Inos, and Lt. Governor Jude U. Hofschneider, through the Department of Public Works (DPW) are soliciting sealed bids proposal for the **Repair and Renovation of Rota Liason Facility**, Navy Hill, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Islands (CNMI).

The project package will be available on or after September 20, 2013 at the Department of Public Works, Technical Services Division, 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, Saipan. A non-refundable payment of Two Hundred and Fifty Dollars (\$250.00) is required for each set. Payment must be made to the CNMI Treasurer and a receipt of payment must be presented when obtaining the Scope of Work at the DPW Technical Services Division. All interested bidders are also required to include Insurer Clearance Certification (ICC) in their bid packages in order to bid on this project. The ICC can be obtained at the Department of Commerce/Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC) on Capitol Hill.

Bidding procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, dated May 24, 2001.

There will be a **Pre-bid Conference** for this project on October 01, 2013 at 9:00 a.m. local time at the Project Site, **Rota Liason Facility, Navy Hill**, Saipan. The Prospective bidders are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the site. All questions regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than 2:30 p.m. local time on October 07, 2013 to **Mr. Vicente C. Cabrera, Acting Director, Technical Services Division**, 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center or fax to (670) 234-3547. Response to questions shall be shared with prospective bidders.

Sealed bids must be marked **"DPW13-IFB-007"**. For bidders within the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, no later than 10:00 a.m. local time October 10, 2013. Bidders located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional Seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to bid must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than 10:00 a.m. local time October 10, 2013, and must be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to procurement@pticom.com. For bidders located outside the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than October 10, 2013, and must be received no later than October 17, 2013. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

Bids will be publicly opened and read at the Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, at 9:30 a.m. local time, October 21, 2013. However, if no notices of intent to bid were received from bidders outside the CNMI, bids will be opened at 9:30 a.m. local time, on October 15, 2013.

For bids greater than Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars (\$25,000.00) a bid security of fifteen (15%) of the bid amount must accompany the bid. Bid security shall be on a bid bond, no cash, by certified check, cashiers check or other form acceptable to the government. A surety company shall hold the Certificate of Authority from the U.S. Secretary of the Treasury as an acceptable to the Attorney General. Surety requiring approval of the Attorney General be pre-approved prior to bid submission. Checks must be made payable to the CNMI Treasurer, with the name of the bidder and a notation on the face of the check: "Credit Account No. 44660". If a bid bond is submitted it must be accompanied by an Insurer Clearance Certification (ICC).

The bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be subject to a responsibility determination in conformance with the **Northern Marianas Island Administrative Code Section 70.30.3-245**. The responsible bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be awarded a contract with the CNMI Government and will be required to deliver Performance and Payment bonds, each equal to 100% of the contract price for contracts greater than \$25,000.00. Prior to the execution of the contract, the selected contractor shall submit:

- A current license from the bonding company showing that it has authority to issue bond in the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Island, and
- Under penalty of perjury, a certification from the bonding company that the unencumbered value of its assets (exclusive of all outstanding commitments on other bond obligations) exceeds the penal amount of each bond.

A contractor submitting an unacceptable payment or performance bond may be permitted a reasonable time, as determined by the P&S Director, to substitute an acceptable bond prior to executing a contract.

Acceptable assets are only:

- Cash
- US Government Securities
- Stocks and Bonds traded on US Security Exchange
- Real Property owned in fee simple in US; and
- Irrevocable Letters of Credit

Performance time for completion of this project is Ninety (90) calendar days upon issuance of Notice to Proceed. Liquidated damages will be assessed at One Hundred Dollars (\$100.00) per calendar day for delays beyond the established completion date.

All bid documents received shall become the sole property of the CNMI Government. The Government reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive any imperfection in a bid proposal that does not effect the elements of price, quantity, and delivery of the bid, in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

/s/ MARTIN C. SABLAN
Secretary of Public Works

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
Director of Procurement and Supply

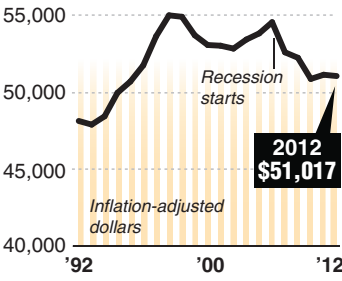
Business

U.S. economic, social well-being

Household income stabilized in 2012, poverty rate was still high and fewer Americans were uninsured.

Median income static

Household income lower than before the recession began

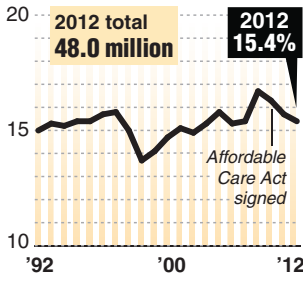


By racial/ethnic group

Asian	\$68,636
White, non-Hispanic	57,009
Hispanic*	39,005
African-American	33,321

Percent uninsured drops

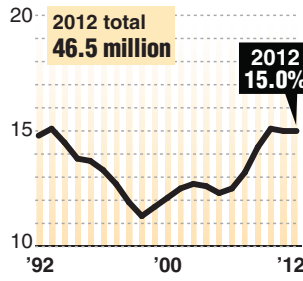
Americans without health insurance



Hispanic*	29.1%
African-American	19.0
Asian	15.1
White, non-Hispanic	11.1

Poverty rate remains high

Percent of poor Americans unchanged since 2010



African-American	27.2%
Hispanic*	25.6
Asian	11.7
White, non-Hispanic	9.7

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

Graphic: Judy Treible

*Hispanics can be any race

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Household income, poverty hold steady; no. of uninsured declines

By TONY PUGH

MCCLATCHY WASHINGTON BUREAU

WASHINGTON—The nation's elevated poverty rate and stagnant median household income showed no meaningful changes in 2012, while the number and percentage of Americans without health insurance declined slightly from 2011, due mainly to higher

Medicare rolls, according to a new U.S. Census Bureau report Tuesday.

Last year marked the first time in five years that there was neither a decrease in median household income nor an increase in the percent of Americans in poverty, said David Johnson, the chief of the Census Bureau's social, economic and housing statistics division. It was also the first time since 1992 that the annual changes in income and poverty weren't statistically significant.

Those findings show that the economic and social well-being of Americans continued to stabilize in 2012 after several years of tumultuous decline following the Great Recession, which began in late 2007 and lasted until mid-2009.

But families still have a way to go to recapture even the modest economic strength of the weak pre-recession labor market.

Median household income—the amount at which half the country earns less and the other half earns more—was \$51,017 last year. That's not statistically different from the 2011 median of \$51,100, but it does halt two straight years of decline.

For working-age households headed by a person younger than 65, the median income increased by 1 percent, from \$56,802 in 2011 to \$57,353 last year. But that slight uptick hardly makes up for the 9.3 percent decline—a loss of \$5,815—among working-age households from 2007 to 2011.

From 2000 to 2012, median income for these non-elderly

households fell by \$7,490, or 11.6 percent.

The numbers reflect a sluggish job market and long-term wage stagnation, said Lawrence Mishel, the president of the Economic Policy Institute, a liberal economic research center.

"We're not seeing much growth in jobs," he said. "We're not seeing much growth in wages for anybody, college graduates or those without a college degree. It shouldn't be surprising that people's incomes are going nowhere if they're not working more, having more jobs or getting increases in their weekly paychecks."

The national poverty rate remained at 15 percent last year, according to the census report, with 46.5 million people earning at or below the federal poverty line of \$11,170 for an individual and \$23,050 for a family of four. It was the second year in a row that the number of people in poverty and the poverty rate showed no meaningful change. The poverty rate was 12.5 percent in 2007, the year before the economy tanked.

The number and percentage of Americans without health insurance fell from 48.6 million, or 15.7 percent, in 2011, to 48 million, or 15.4 percent, in 2012, the census report found. The decline was driven mainly by an increase of nearly 2 million people with Medicare coverage as the first wave of aging baby boomers, born from 1946 to 1964, became eligible for the program.

Medicare enrollment jumped from 46.9 million in 2011 to nearly 48.9 million in 2012.

Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation

Public Health and Hospital Emergency Preparedness Program



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T

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C

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H

AVE AN EMERGENCY PLAN

PLAN, PREPARE, PREVENT

Medical Reserve Corps teams exist in each health district across the United States and consist of "Medical, Public Health Professionals and Community Members who volunteer to contribute their skills, expertise and time to support public health initiatives during natural and man made disasters."



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SaipanTribune

Make it your **DAILY** habit.

Nation

Military base shootings shake sense of security

By RAMIT PLUSHNICK-MASTI
ASSOCIATED PRESS

Armed guards stand at the gates. IDs are needed to pass through electronic barriers. And uniformed members of the American military—well-trained and battle-tested—are everywhere, smartly

saluting as they come and go.

And yet, twice in less than four years, a person with permission to be there passed through the layers of protection at a U.S. base and opened fire, destroying the sense of security at the installations that embody the most powerful military in the world.

"It is earth-shattering. When military bases are no longer safe, where is safe if that even doesn't exist anymore?" said Col. Kathy Platoni, a reservist who keeps a gun under her desk after witnessing the shooting at Fort Hood in Texas in 2009, when Army psychiatrist Maj.

Nidal Hasan killed 13 people.

In the wake of this week's deadly rampage at the Washington Navy Yard, Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel ordered the Pentagon to review security at all U.S. defense installations worldwide and examine the granting of security clearances that allow access to them.

"We will find those gaps and we will fix those gaps," Hagel vowed on Wednesday.

After Fort Hood, the military tightened security at bases nationwide. Those measures included issuing security personnel long-barreled weapons, adding an insider-attack scenario to their training, and strengthening ties to local law

enforcement, said Peter Daly, a vice admiral who retired from the Navy in 2011. The military also joined an FBI intelligence-sharing program aimed at identifying terror threats.

Then, on Monday, Aaron Alexis, a 34-year-old former Navy reservist who held a security clearance as an information technology employee at a defense company, used a valid pass to get into the Washington Navy Yard and killed 12 people before dying in a gun battle with police.

The attack has raised questions about the adequacy of the background checks done on government contractors who hold security clearances.

Hagel acknowledged "a lot of red flags" may have been missed in the background of the gunman, who had a history of

violent behavior and was said to be hearing voices recently.

Many of the security improvements adopted after 9/11 and Fort Hood were created largely with terrorism in mind, not unstable individuals with no apparent political agenda. Those threats can be more difficult to detect.

Daly, who directs the U.S. Naval Institute in Annapolis, Md., said the military needs to review its procedures for vetting people for access to installations.

"Once you're inside that hardened line of defense, that is the most difficult scenario," he said. "We need to look at how these clearances are granted to contractors and subcontractors and to make sure once someone is granted clearance, that we come back and check again."

Navy Yard opening 3 days after massacre

WASHINGTON (AP)—The Washington Navy Yard is returning to nearly normal operations three days after it was the scene of a mass shooting in which a gunman killed 12 people.

The Navy installation was scheduled to re-open at 6 a.m.

Thursday. Navy spokeswoman Lt. Cmdr. Sarah Flaherty said Thursday will be a regular work day, except for Building 197, where the shootings occurred, and the base gym. She says the gym is being used as a staging area for the

FBI to investigate Monday's rampage in which former Navy reservist Aaron Alexis gunned down 12 people before being killed by police.

Law enforcement officials are still trying to determine a motive for the shooting.

JOIN THE FIGHT AGAINST CHILDHOOD OBESITY & CANCER!



LET'S
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Yengyung with the Kangkang



SEPTEMBER 2013

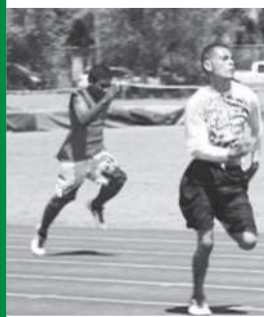
21	Saturday	8:00am	Vine Cutting	Lau Lau (San Vicente) Parking Lot
		11:00am	Cooking Demo	Joeten Kiyu Public Library
25	Wednesday	6:00pm	Volunteer Orientation	Ada Gym
26	Thursday	5:30pm-9:30pm	Street Market LMM Hosting	Fishing Base
27	Friday	6:00pm	Volunteer Orientation	Ada Gym

"Every individual who attends and participates in any of the activities on the calendar prior to the Let's Move Marianas Expo! must sign-in. They will be given an incentive for every activity that they will be able to redeem at the Let's Move Marianas Expo! So bring the WHOLE family. All activities with the exception of the TV Shows."

For more information:
670-236-8638
letsmovemarianas@gmail.com

Supported in part by project H25MC06112 from the MCHB (Title V, Social Security Act), HRSA, DHHS.

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Mayor Gilbert C. Ada Sports Complex
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Supported in part by project H25MC06112 from the MCHB (Title V, Social Security Act), HRSA, DHHS.



CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM – OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

Request for Qualifications
Architectural and Engineering Design Services for Assessment of the Tinian Harbor
RFQ13-GOV-179

Governor Eloy S. Inos and Lieutenant Governor Jude U. Hofschneider through the Capital Improvement Program (CIP) Office (“Commonwealth”) are soliciting sealed proposals for Architectural and Engineering (A&E) Design Services for Assessment of the Tinian Harbor, located at San Jose Village on Tinian, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Proposal procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, dated May 24, 2001, or latest revision thereof. Public Law 15-95 Local Preference Act, as amended by Public Law 15-118 does not apply to this federally funded project. All wage rates for employees performing the work, labor and services on this project shall be paid at the current U.S. prevailing wage rates established for the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI).

Prior to an award of a design contract, the firm or company must have obtained a valid Certificate of Authorization (COA) from the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Board of Professional Licensing.

The project package and scope of work will be available Wednesday, September 18, 2013 at the Governor’s CIP Office, Juan A. Sablan Administration Building, Capitol Hill, Saipan.

A pre-proposal meeting is scheduled on Monday, October 7, 2013, 9:00 a.m. at the Governor’s Office conference room, Juan A. Sablan Administration Building, Capitol Hill, Saipan. Questions regarding this Request for Qualifications must be submitted in writing to Ms. Elizabeth S. Balajadia, P.E., Project Manager, CIP Office or via email to balajadiaelizabeth@hotmail.com or via facsimile to (670) 664-2408 no later than September 27, 2013, 4:30 p.m., local time.

Proposals shall not exceed 25 pages. Note, a firm or company that submits as a prime consultant cannot also submit as a sub consultant on another proposal. However, sub consultants maybe included in multiple proposals by different consultants.

Proposals will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

1. Qualification and experience on similar projects	25%
2. Project Approach	5%
3. Work load and resources to accomplish the work in the required period	25%
4. Past performance with the CNMI Government on similar projects	25%
5. Fee Proposal	0%

Performance time for completion of the A&E Design Services for Assessment of the Tinian is 150 calendar days upon issuance of a Notice to Proceed. Liquidated damages will be assessed and shall be the greater of (i) Two Hundred Dollars (US\$200.00), or (ii) two percent (2%) of the contract price divided by the number of calendar days of the contract time, the contract time and contract price being determined at the time of the assessment of liquidated damages for each and every day beyond the established completion date.

Proposals must be sealed and marked RFQ13-GOV-179 A&E Design Services for Assessment of the Tinian Harbor. For proposals within the CNMI, one original and five (5) copies of sealed proposals must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, no later than 10:00 a.m. local time, October 18, 2013. Proposers located outside the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their proposal by submitting a notice of intent to propose. Notices of intent to propose must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than 10:00 a.m. local time, October 18, 2013 and may be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via email to procurement@pticom.com. For proposers located outside the CNMI, one original and five (5) copies of the sealed proposals must be marked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal services of the foreign country no later than October 18, 2013 and must be received no later than October 29, 2013. Failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a proposal.

Discussion shall be conducted with at least three (3) of the firms regarding the contract requirements and technical approach and selection made there from, in order of preference, of no less than three (3) firms determined to be the most highly qualified to perform the services required. A contract shall be negotiated with the highest qualified architect/engineer firm or company at a price determined to be fair and reasonable to the government. If a fair and reasonable price cannot be negotiated with the highest-ranking qualified firm, then additional firms maybe selected in order of competence and qualifications and negotiations continued until a fair and reasonable price is agreed upon.

The successful proposer(s) will be subject to a responsibility determination in conformance with the CNMI Procurement and Supply Regulations Section 3-301. All responses to this RFQ shall take into account all taxes that will be charged to the proposer(s) awarded a contract for this project, including excise tax.

The government reserves the right to reject any or all proposals and to waive any imperfections in any Proposal in the best interest of the CNMI government. All proposals shall become the property of the CNMI government.

/s/ Eloy S. Inos, Governor
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

/s/ Herman S. Sablan
Director of Procurement & Supply

Submerged cars. may solve cold cases

SAYRE, Okla. (AP)—When three teenagers from this small Oklahoma town disappeared on their way to a high school football game in 1970, rumors swirled as to what happened to the trio.

Some thought the three had stumbled across a drug deal at a rural airstrip and been killed. Others said they might have run away to California.

“There have been theories from everybody,” said Dayva Spitzer, publisher of The Sayre Record newspaper and a long-time resident. “Everyone suspected foul play. ... But every lead just went nowhere.”

Now authorities believe

they have a key piece to the puzzle: A 1969 Camaro, just like the one the teens were driving, was pulled from a lake with the skeletal remains of three people inside.

And that wasn’t the only discovery. A second car containing remains, an early 1950s Chevrolet, was also recovered. Custer County Sheriff Bruce Peoples believes it may solve another case in which two men and a woman disappeared a year before the teens vanished.

“These vehicles match those missing-persons reports real close,” Peoples said Wednesday as investigators combed through the rusty, mud-cov-

ered vehicles.

Both vehicles were discovered Tuesday by divers conducting a training exercise at Foss Lake, about 100 miles west of Oklahoma City.

The cars were submerged in about 12 feet of water and were only about 50 feet from the end of a boat ramp near a marina. But Peoples said it was no surprise that the murky waters held a secret.

“This lake isn’t crystal clear. It’s a typical western Oklahoma lake with a lot of silt in it. The visibility is only 6 to 12 inches on a good day,” Peoples said. “We’ll consider it a mystery until we prove otherwise.”



ACROSS THE NATION

MLK’s secretary to auction King trove next month

RIDGELAND, Miss. (AP)—The Rev. Martin Luther King Jr.’s personal secretary is selling a collection from the early civil rights movement, including handwritten notes by King and a page from his “I Have a Dream” speech, what the auction house calls an unprecedented historical trove. Maude Ballou worked as King’s secretary from 1955 to 1960, when King led the Montgomery Improvement Association and the Southern Christian Leadership Conference. Ballou, who

turned 88 Friday, is selling the items Oct. 17 in New York through Texas-based Heritage Auctions. People can bid in person or online. Ballou and Heritage Auctions say a portion of the proceeds will be used to establish an education fund at Alabama State University.

Wash. mother assaulted; son, 2nd teen arrested

SPOKANE, Wash. (AP)—Two teenage boys have been arrested in a bizarre sword attack on one teen’s mother that reportedly included a discussion of killing the woman and

eating her liver, a Spokane County sheriff’s spokesman said Wednesday. Spokane Valley deputies responding to an assault call early Tuesday found the bloody woman on her bed; next to her were two knives and a sword with a bent handle. The woman was hospitalized Wednesday in stable condition, Deputy Craig Chamberlin said. She was not identified. “It doesn’t sound like she remembered the attack,” Chamberlin said in a phone interview. The woman told deputies the sword handle wasn’t previously bent. It wasn’t clear who called for help.



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INVITATION TO BID
ITB13-GOV-180

Expansion of a Parking Lot – Office of the Governor
Juan A. Sablan Administration Building, Capitol Hill Saipan

Governor Eloy S. Inos and Lieutenant Governor Jude U. Hofschneider are soliciting sealed bids for the Parking Lot Expansion – Office of the Governor, Capitol Hill Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The project package will be available Friday, September 20, 2013 at the Governor’s Capital Improvement Program (CIP) Administrator’s Office, Juan A. Sablan Administration Building, Capitol Hill. A \$25.00 non-refundable fee for the project package will be assessed. All interested bidders are required to include an Insurer Certification Clearance (ICC) in their bid packages in order to bid on this project. The ICC should be obtained at the Department of Commerce, Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC) on Capitol Hill.

Bidding procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, as revised through May 24, 2001. Public Law 15-95 Local Preference Act, as amended by Public Law 15-118 does not apply to this Federally funded project. All wage rates for employees performing the work, labor and services on this project shall be paid at the current U.S. prevailing wage rates established for the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

There will be a pre-bid conference/site visit for this project on Friday, September 27, 2013, 9:00AM ChST at the project site, Capitol Hill, Saipan. All questions regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than 4:30 PM ChST October 03, 2013 to Mr. Carl Castro, Contracting Officer Technical Representative, Office of the Governor, Juan A. Sablan Administration Building, Capitol Hill, Saipan, or faxed to (670) 664-2408. All responses to questions should be shared with other prospective contractors.

Sealed bids must be marked “**ITB13-GOV-180, Expansion of a Parking Lot**”. For bidders within the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, no later than 10:00 AM ChST October 21, 2013. Bidders located outside the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to Bid. Notices of Intent to Bid must be received by the Director of Procurement & Supply no later than 10:00 AM ChST October 21, 2013, and must be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to procurement@pticom.com. For bidders located outside the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than October 14, 2013 and must be received no later than October 30, 2013 ChST. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

Bids will be publicly opened and read at the Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, at 10:00 AM ChST October 31, 2013. However, if no notices of intent to bid are received from bidders outside the CNMI, bids will opened at 11:00 AM ChST October 21, 2013.

For bids greater than Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars (\$25,000.00) a bid security of fifteen percent (15%) of the bid amount must accompany the bid. Bid security shall be on a bid bond, in cash, by certified check, cashier’s check or other form acceptable to the government. A surety company shall hold the certificate of authority from the U.S. Secretary of the Treasury as an acceptable surety or other surety acceptable to the Attorney General. Checks must be made payable to the CNMI Treasurer, with the name of the bidder and a notation on the face of the check: "Credit Account No. 44660". If a bid bond is submitted it must be accompanied by an Insurer Clearance Certification (ICC).

The bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be subject to a responsibility determination in conformance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations Section 70-30.3-245. The responsible bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be awarded a contract with the CNMI Government and will be awarded a contract with the CNMI Government and will be required to deliver Performance and Payment bonds, each equal to 100% of the contract price for contracts greater than \$25,000.00.

Prior to the execution of the contract, the selected contractor shall submit:

- a) A current license from the bonding company showing that it has authority to issue bond in the CNMI, and
- b) A certification from the bonding company that the unencumbered value of its assets (exclusive of all outstanding commitments on other bond obligations) exceeds the penal amount of each bond.

A contractor submitting an unacceptable payment or performance bond may be permitted a reasonable time, as determined by the P&S Director, to substitute an acceptable bond prior to executing a contract.

Acceptable assets are only:

- 1) Cash
- 2) US Government Securities
- 3) Stocks and Bonds traded on US Security Exchange
- 4) Real Property owned in fee simple in US; and
- 5) Irrevocable Letters of Credit

Performance time for completion of this project is ninety (90) calendar days after the established Notice to Proceed date.

All bid documents received shall become the sole property of the CNMI Government. The Government reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive any imperfection in a bid proposal that does not affect the elements of price, quantity, and delivery of the bid, in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

/s/ELOY S. INOS, Governor
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Island

/s/Herman S. Sablan, Director
Procurement and Supply, DOF



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INVITATION TO BID
ITB13-GOV-184

Renovation and Upgrade of the Main Entrance – Office of the Governor
Juan A. Sablan Administration Building, Capitol Hill Saipan

Governor Eloy S. Inos and Lieutenant Governor Jude U. Hofschneider are soliciting sealed bids for the Renovation and Upgrade of the Main Entrance – Office of the Governor, Capitol Hill Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The project package will be available Tuesday, September 24, 2013 at the Governor’s Capital Improvement Program (CIP) Administrator’s Office, Juan A. Sablan Administration Building, Capitol Hill. A \$25.00 non-refundable fee for the project package will be assessed. All interested bidders are required to include an Insurer Certification Clearance (ICC) in their bid packages in order to bid on this project. The ICC should be obtained at the Department of Commerce, Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC) on Capitol Hill.

Bidding procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, as revised through May 24, 2001. Public Law 15-95 Local Preference Act, as amended by Public Law 15-118 does not apply to this Federally funded project. All wage rates for employees performing the work, labor and services on this project shall be paid at the current U.S. prevailing wage rates established for the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

There will be a pre-bid conference/site visit for this project on Tuesday, October 01, 2013, 9:00AM ChST at the project site, Capitol Hill, Saipan. All questions regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than 4:30 PM ChST October 03, 2013 to Mr. Carl Castro, Contracting Officer Technical Representative, Office of the Governor, Juan A. Sablan Administration Building, Capitol Hill, Saipan, or faxed to (670) 664-2408. All responses to questions should be shared with other prospective contractors.

Sealed bids must be marked “**ITB13-GOV-184, Renovation and Upgrade of the Main Entrance – Office of the Governor**”. For bidders within the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, no later than 9:00 AM ChST October 21, 2013. Bidders located outside the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to Bid. Notices of Intent to Bid must be received by the Director of Procurement & Supply no later than 9:00 AM ChST October 21, 2013, and must be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to procurement@pticom.com. For bidders located outside the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than October 21, 2013 and must be received no later than October 30, 2013 ChST. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

Bids will be publicly opened and read at the Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, at 10:00 AM ChST October 31, 2013. However, if no notices of intent to bid are received from bidders outside the CNMI, bids will opened at 9:30 AM ChST October 21, 2013.

For bids greater than Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars (\$25,000.00) a bid security of fifteen percent (15%) of the bid amount must accompany the bid. Bid security shall be on a bid bond, in cash, by certified check, cashier’s check or other form acceptable to the government. A surety company shall hold the certificate of authority from the U.S. Secretary of the Treasury as an acceptable surety or other surety acceptable to the Attorney General. Checks must be made payable to the CNMI Treasurer, with the name of the bidder and a notation on the face of the check: "Credit Account No. 44660". If a bid bond is submitted it must be accompanied by an Insurer Clearance Certification (ICC).

The bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be subject to a responsibility determination in conformance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations Section 70-30.3-245. The responsible bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be awarded a contract with the CNMI Government and will be awarded a contract with the CNMI Government and will be required to deliver Performance and Payment bonds, each equal to 100% of the contract price for contracts greater than \$25,000.00.

Prior to the execution of the contract, the selected contractor shall submit:

- a) A current license from the bonding company showing that it has authority to issue bond in the CNMI, and
- b) A certification from the bonding company that the unencumbered value of its assets (exclusive of all outstanding commitments on other bond obligations) exceeds the penal amount of each bond.

A contractor submitting an unacceptable payment or performance bond may be permitted a reasonable time, as determined by the P&S Director, to substitute an acceptable bond prior to executing a contract.

Acceptable assets are only:

- 1) Cash
- 2) US Government Securities
- 3) Stocks and Bonds traded on US Security Exchange
- 4) Real Property owned in fee simple in US; and
- 5) Irrevocable Letters of Credit

Performance time for completion of this project is thirty (30) calendar days after the established Notice to Proceed date.

All bid documents received shall become the sole property of the CNMI Government. The Government reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive any imperfection in a bid proposal that does not affect the elements of price, quantity, and delivery of the bid, in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

ELOY S. INOS, Governor
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Island

Herman S. Sablan, Director
Procurement and Supply, DOF

World

Rocket trajectory links Syrian military to attack

BEIRUT (AP)—The trajectory of the rockets that delivered the nerve agent sarin in last month’s deadly attack is among the key evidence linking elite Syrian troops based in the mountains overlooking Damascus to the strike that killed hundreds of people, diplomats and human rights officials said Wednesday.

That evidence, however, was dismissed by Syrian President Bashar Assad, who denied that his regime carried out the Aug. 21 attack outside Damascus.



Assad

In an interview with Fox News Channel broadcast Wednesday, Assad blamed terrorist groups for using chemical weapons and said Russia has evidence supporting

his position.

“We have evidence that the terrorist group has used sarin gas,” Assad said, adding that the evidence had been turned over to Russia.

“Second, the Russian satellite, since the beginning of these allegations at the 21st of August—they said that they have information, through their satellite, that the rocket (was) launched from another area. So why ... ignore this point of view?”

The interview was conducted Tuesday in the Syrian capital of Damascus by former Ohio Democratic Rep. Dennis Kucinich, a Fox News contributor, and Fox News Channel Senior Correspondent Greg Palkot.

The attack precipitated the crisis over Syria’s chemical weapons. The U.S. threatened a military strike against Syria, which led to a plan negotiated by Moscow and Washington under which the Assad regime is to abandon its chemical weapons stockpile.

A U.N. report released Monday confirmed that chemical weapons were used in the attack but did not ascribe blame.

The United States, Britain and France cited evidence in the report to declare Assad’s government responsible. Russia called the report “one-sided” and says it has “serious reason to suggest that this was a provocation” by the rebels fighting the Assad regime in Syria’s civil war.

Assad agreed, saying the scenario of the attack depicted in the report was unrealistic.

“So, the whole story doesn’t even hold together,” Assad said. “It’s not realistic. So, no, we didn’t. In one word, we didn’t

use any chemical weapons in Ghouta, because if you want to use it, you would harm your troops, you would have harmed the tens of thousands of civilians in Syria, in Damascus.”

The report, however, provided

data that suggested the chemical-loaded rockets that hit two Damascus suburbs were fired from the northwest, indicating they came from nearby mountains where the Syrian military is known to have major bases.

WORLD BRIEFS

6 killed as Canada bus strikes passenger train

OTTAWA, Ontario (AP)—Passengers screamed “Stop! Stop!” seconds before their bus crashed through a crossing barrier and into a commuter train during morning rush hour in Canada’s capital on Wednesday, killing six people and injuring 34. “He smoked the train,” witness Mark Cogan said of the bus driver, who was among those killed. “He went through the guard rail and just hammered the train, and then it was just mayhem.” It was not immediately clear what caused the bus to smash through the lowered barrier at a crossing in suburban Ottawa. The front of the double-decker bus was ripped away by the impact, and the train’s locomotive and one passenger car derailed, though there were no reports of major injuries to train passengers or crew.

58 missing in Mexico in landslide caused by storm

ACAPULCO, Mexico (AP)—Mexico’s Interior Minister Miguel Angel Osorio Chong says at least 58 people are missing in a mountain village where many homes were buried by a landslide unleashed by a tropical storm. Osorio Chong says rescue crews have evacuated 344 people from La Pintada village. He says many are hurt, at least one seriously. He said Wednesday night another 45 will be flown out of the area Thursday. He says there is still risk of more landslides in the coffee-growing village pounded by rains from Manuel, which is now a hurricane.

5 killed in shootout along Pakistan-Afghan border

QUETTA, Pakistan (AP)—

Security forces killed five men Wednesday near the border between Afghanistan and Pakistan, officials from the two countries said, though they offered conflicting claims over whether the dead were militants or cattle farmers. The men had crossed the porous border to get fodder for their cattle when Afghan security forces killed them, Pakistani official Taj Mohammed said. Mohammad is a deputy commissioner in Zhob, which is located about 470 kilometers (280 miles) west of Quetta, the capital of southwestern Baluchistan province. But the police chief for Afghanistan’s Paktika province, Daulat Khan Zadran, said the men were Taliban militants killed in a confrontation with Afghan security forces. Zadran said the bodies of three of the slain men were still in Afghanistan.

Verdict against China’s Bo Xilai expected Sunday

BEIJING (AP)—A Chinese court announced that it will deliver a verdict Sunday against disgraced politician Bo Xilai on charges of bribery, embezzlement and abuse of power in a case set in motion by his wife’s murder of a British businessman. The former Politburo member and Chongqing city party leader vigorously defended himself during his trial last month in the eastern city of Jinan, acknowledging mistakes in his leadership but admitting no guilt in the charges against him. Prosecutors accused him of interfering with the investigation into his wife’s murder of Briton Neil Heywood in November 2011, as well as other corruption uncovered by investigators.

Egypt’s ousted leader

talks to family for 1st time

CAIRO (AP)—Egypt’s ousted president, Mohammed Morsi, told his wife and children he is in good health in his first conversation with his family since the military removed him from office and detained him in a secret location more than two months ago, one of his lawyers said Wednesday. The phone calls were an apparent gesture by the military as authorities prepare to put Morsi on trial on charges of inciting the killing of protesters during his year in office—though no date for the trial has been set. Morsi’s legal team has so far not been able to talk to him, said the lawyer, Mostafa Atteyah.



Job Summary:

The Wireless Transmission Technician maintains, and repairs the electronic and electro-mechanical switching equipment in the IT&E Central Office. The Technician monitors the complex and sophisticated telecommunications equipment in the Central Office, trouble shooting and repairing such equipment as the Electronic Digital Switching, billing, and related overseas and inter-office trunk and carrier equipment.

Minimum Qualification Requirements:

Education: High School diploma and one year of formal training/education in telecommunications, electronics, computers or other related technical area, or an additional one year of related experience.
Work Experience: Three years experience in telecommunications technician type work such as Switching Technician, Equipment Technician and Wireless Transmission Technician. Experience in personal computer operations required.

Licensure/Certification/Professional Association:

Appropriate vendor certification for business systems installation and maintenance are desirable, but not required at time of hire.

Special Knowledge, Skills and Abilities:

- Knowledge of:
 - Electrical theory and application, electronics technology, and computer technology
 - General telecommunications installation and maintenance requirements
 - Telecommunications equipment and processes, to include wireless transmission equipment and electric/electronic safety requirements
 - Basic customer service skills
- Skills in:
 - Efficiently managing material resources
 - Installing, splicing and connecting wires and cables.
 - Using various electric/electronic testing equipment
 - Using personal computer hardware and Microsoft software programs
- Ability to:
 - Communicate clearly, concisely and accurately, both verbally and in writing
 - Trouble shoot electro-mechanical problems and reach appropriate technical solutions
 - Make logical and sound decisions in the resolution of complex mechanical/electronic equipment situations
 - Perform in a self-directed, creative and forward thinking manner
 - Work in indoor construction-like conditions and outdoors in all types of island weather conditions
 - Climb ladders, poles and if certified, towers; not afraid of heights
 - Work in dusty construction-like areas, confined spaces and heights
- Other Requirements:
 - Perform overtime when required
 - Work occasional call out and standby
 - Travel to neighboring islands

IT&E offers an attractive and competitive compensation package. All applicants **MUST** apply online at www.ite.net. Applications must be received by IT&E Human Resources on or before September 24, 2013.

IT&E affords equal opportunity to all applicants and employees for hire and promotion without regard to race, color, origin, gender, age, marital status, religion, veteran status, or handicap.



Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Coastal Resources Management
Caller Box 10007, Behind Department of Public Safety Bureau of Motor Vehicle, Susupe, Saipan MP 96950
Website: www.crm.gov.mp
Tel. (670) 664-8300 • Fax (670) 664-8315



NOTICE OF APPLICATION
September 19, 2013

THE FOLLOWING IS A PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT OF COASTAL PERMIT APPLICATIONS RECEIVED BY THE CRM OFFICES:

APPLICANT	DATE APPLICATION RECEIVED	APPLICATION PROJECT DESCRIPTION	LOCATION	TYPE	STATUS
1. Tasi Homes Development, LLC.	05/29/2013 SMS-2013-X-031	Eight Storey Apartment Building	Sugar Dock, Susupe	Major Siting	Approved (09/13/2013)
2. Pacific Inc. Db a Ocean Star	07/29/2013 SPIm-2013-X-054	Dry Dock	Lower Base	Ports & Industrial APC	Approved (07/29/2013)
3. Pacific Marine Enterprises	09/10/2013 SPIm-2013-X-055	Boat landing ramp	Lower Base	Ports & Industrial APC	Under Review
4. GPPC	09/13/2013 SMS-87-X-110 (2013 Amend)	4K Gallons storage tank	Achugao	Amendment	Under Review

Publication of the above list is in accordance with CRM Regulations, which require all permit applications to be published in a local newspaper within 15 days of receipt of application. The list reflects recently received permit applications and those with a recent change in status. New applications are marked with an asterisk (*).

The Public is invited to submit written comments regarding any of the above projects for which a permit decision has not been issued. All permit comments should identify the project by application number. Your comments should be mailed or hand-delivered to the CRM Office. All persons who desire a public hearing regarding any project may do so by submitting a written request for a public hearing to the CRM Office within fourteen (14) days for minor permits (APCs) and proposed amended major sitings. Public Hearings are required for all new major siting projects. All public hearing notices are published in a local newspaper of general circulation. Residents of Rota and Tinian may submit comments and hearing requests to their local CRM Coordinator. Persons wishing to retain the right to appeal a CRM Permit decision must file a notice of appeal with the CRM office within thirty (30) days of the issuance of the CRM permit decision as provided in Part 200 § 15-10-235 of the CRM Regulations.

Off The Wall

Hawaii can't fit woman's last name on license

HONOLULU (AP)—A Hawaii woman's last name is a real mouthful, containing 36 characters and 19 syllables in all. And it's so long that she couldn't get a driver's license with her correct name.

Janice "Lokelani" Keihanaikukauakahihuliheekahaunaele is in the midst of a fight with state and local officials to ensure that her full name gets listed on a license or ID card. Her name is pronounced: KAY'-ee-hah-nah-EE'-coo-COW'-ah-KAH'-hee-HOO'-lee-heh-eh-KAH'-how-NAH-eh-leh.

The documents only have room for 35 characters. Her name has 35 letters plus a mark used in the Hawaiian alphabet, called an okina.

So Hawaii County instead issued her driver's license and her state ID with the last letter of her name chopped off. And it omitted her first name.

The 54-year-old Big Island resident wrote her mayor and city councilwoman for help, but the county said the state of Ha-

waii computer system they used wouldn't allow names longer than 35 characters.

Keihanaikukauakahihuliheekahaunaele got the name when she married her Hawaiian husband in 1992.

He used only the one name, which his grandfather gave him. The name came to his grandfather in a dream that also told him he would have a grandson.

Her husband died in 2008, but he had similar problems when he was alive, she told The Associated Press.

The name has layers of meanings. One, she said, is

"When there is chaos and confusion, you are one that will stand up and get people to focus in one direction and come out of the chaos." It also references the origins of her and her husband's family.

Keihanaikukauakahihuliheekahaunaele was compelled to bring attention to the issue after a policeman last month gave her a hard time about her driver's license when he pulled her over for a traffic stop. She wrote Honolulu television station KHON for help, and her story started getting more attention.

"I said wait a minute, this

is not my fault. This is the county's fault that I don't have an ID that has my name correctly," she said.

The police officer suggested she could use her maiden name.

"I said, how disrespectful to the Hawaiian people because there's a lot of meaning behind this name. I've had this name for over 20 years. I had to grow into this name. It's very deep spiritual path," she said.

Caroline Sluyter, state Department of Transportation spokeswoman, said Thursday the state is working to increase space for names on driver's li-



Janice "Lokelani" Keihanaikukauakahihuliheekahaunaele holds her Hawaii drivers license that lacks the space for her full name.

censes and ID cards.

By the end of the year, the cards will allow 40 characters for first and last names and 35 characters for middle names, she said.

Keihanaikukauakahihuliheekahaunaele, who practices shoreline fishing in the Hawaiian tradition as a profession, said she's happy the publicity about her situation has prompted many people to have badly needed discussions.

"If you're going to require people to have picture IDs to identify them, they have to be correct," she said.

Ig Nobel awards honor weird, funny discoveries

CAMBRIDGE, Mass. (AP)—An experiment that proved people who think they are drunk also think they are attractive and another that showed lost dung beetles can use the Milky Way to find their way home were among the winners at this year's Ig Nobel awards ceremony held Thursday.

This is the 23rd year for the award, sponsored by the science humor magazine Annals of Improbable Research and given out to honor weird and humorous scientific discoveries. The winners come from all over the world.

Actual Nobel laureates announced the winners during a ceremony at Harvard University.

Editor Marc Abrahams, who organized the ceremony, said the point is to make people laugh and then think.

"The combination of science that is funny on its own—not because someone is making a joke, but it is funny—that's an unusual notion in the United States," he said. "It is becoming more acceptable again."

For the first time, the winners received cash prizes—\$10 trillion, but in Zimbabwe dollars. So they'll each get about

four U.S. dollars.

The awards ceremonies are usually silly, and this year's was no different. It included a mini-opera and a contest to win a date with a Nobel laureate.

The winners will give short speeches Saturday at MIT.

The psychology prize went to the experiment that found people who think they are drunk also think they are attractive, done by Laurent Bègue, Oulmann Zerhouni, Baptiste Subra and Medhi Ourabah of France and Brad Bushman, a professor at Ohio State University who also teaches in the Netherlands.

The dung beetle navigation experiment won the joint prize in biology and astronomy, given to Marie Dacke, Emily Baird, Marcus Byrne, Clarke Scholtz and Eric Warrant, who work in Sweden, Australia, South Africa, the United Kingdom and Germany.

OFFBEAT BRIEFS

Would you board flight 666 to HEL?

HELSINKI (AP)—Would you board flight 666 to HEL on Friday the 13th?

For superstitious travelers, that might be tempting fate. But Finnair passengers on AY666 to Helsinki—which has the 3 letter designation HEL—don't seem too bothered. Friday's flight is almost full. "It has been quite a joke among the pilots" said veteran Finnair pilot Juha-Pekka Keidasto, who will fly the Airbus A320 from Copenhagen to Helsinki. "I'm not a superstitious man. It's only a coincidence for me." The daily flight AY666 from Copenhagen to Helsinki falls on Friday the 13th twice in 2013. Friday the 13th is considered bad luck in many

countries and the number 666 also has strong negative biblical associations.

Mass. school district closed due to slick floors

AMHERST, Mass. (AP)—A Massachusetts school district has canceled classes for the day because floors are too slippery. The Amherst Regional School District announced on its website that all six of its schools are closed Thursday because of "weather-related building issues." Amherst Regional High School Principal Mark Jackson said there had been 22 reported falls throughout the district on Wednesday because of slick floors. He had not heard of any serious injuries. He says the schools' floors were waxed during the summer and Wednesday's high temperatures melted the wax and made the floors slick. The superintendent made the decision to close the schools. The district serves children from Amherst, Pelham, Leverett and Shutesbury.

Russian shot in quarrel over Kant's philosophy

MOSCOW (AP)—An argument in southern Russia over philosopher Immanuel Kant, the author of "Critique of Pure Reason," devolved into pure mayhem when one debater shot the other. A police spokeswoman in Rostov-on Don, Viktoria Safarova, said two men in their 20s were discussing Kant as they stood in line to buy beer at a small store on Sunday. The discussion deteriorated into a fistfight and one participant pulled out a small nonlethal pistol and fired repeatedly. The victim was hospitalized with injuries that were not life-threatening. Neither person was identified. It was not clear which of Kant's ideas may have triggered the violence.

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

MVA-RFP-13-2323

For: Purchase and Installation of Optical Mark Reflex Scanner System for the Marianas Visitors Authority

Closing Date: September 24, 2013 Time: 4:30 p.m.

Submit sealed proposals to: The Division of Procurement & Supply
P.O. Box 10008
Saipan, MP 96950

Interested parties may pick up the scope of work at the Marianas Visitors Authority office between 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., (closed 12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m.) Monday to Friday, except holidays or by visiting the MVA website at www.mymarianas.com. A pre-proposers meeting will take place on September 10, 2013 at 9:00a.m. at the Marianas Visitors Authority.

/s/ HERMAN SABLAN
Director, P&S

/s/ PERRY P. TENORIO
Managing Director

MICHAEL A. WHITE, ESQ. F0122
THE LAW OFFICES OF MICHAEL A. WHITE, LLC
POST OFFICE BOX 5222
SAIPAN, MARIANA ISLANDS 96950
TEL: (670) 234-6547
FAX: (670) 234-9537

ATTORNEYS FOR Plaintiff

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE
COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN
MARIANA ISLANDS

CITY TRUST BANK,)
Plaintiff,)
)
-v-) CIVIL ACTION
) NO. 97-1054

JUAN R. SABLAN and) TENTH AMENDED
ANGELINE F. SABLAN,) NOTICE OF SALE
Defendants.)

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to an Order issued by the Court in this matter on November 10, 2008, I will sell, at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the terms and conditions set forth hereinbelow, all the right, title, and interest of Defendants in and to the following property: Real property situated in Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, designated as Lot E.A. 839 NEW-6-3, containing an area of 1,329 square meters, more or less, as more particularly described on Drawing/Cadastral Plat No. E.A. 839 NEW.

Date, Time, and Place of Sale. The sale will be held on Friday, October 4, 2013, at the hour of 1:30 p.m., at The Law Offices of Michael A. White, LLC, Joeten Center, Susupe, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands. The sale will be open to the general public.

Terms and Conditions of Sale. The Terms and Conditions of Sale may be obtained from the undersigned, either prior to or at the sale. These terms and conditions shall govern the conduct of the sale.

DATED, this 1st day of September, 2013:

/s/ MICHAEL A. WHITE, Auctioneer

LAW OFFICES OF S. JOSHUA BERGER
D'TORRES BUILDING, GARAPAN
P.O. Box 504340
SAIPAN, MP 96950
Phone (670) 235-8060 Fax 235-8070

Attorney for Plaintiff

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE
COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN
MARIANA ISLANDS

NORTHERN MARIANA)
ISLANDS RETIREMENT) CIVIL ACTION
FUND) NO.: 13-0010
Plaintiff,)
)
v.) NOTICE OF
) FORECLOSURE
VICENTE K. BASA aka) SALE
VINCENT K. BASA,)
Defendant.)

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that, pursuant to the Entry of Default and Default Judgment Order issued by the Court in this matter on June 11, 2013, I will sell, at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the terms and conditions set forth herein below, all of the right and interest of Defendant in and to the following real property:

Lot No. 001 G 31, as more particularly described on Drawing/Cadastral Plat No. 001 G 02, the original of which was recorded on March 18, 1986 as Document No. 86-0513 at the Commonwealth Recorder's, Saipan.

1. Date, Time and Place of Sale. The sale is open to the general public (including the Defendant or a representative), and will be held on **Wednesday, October 16, 2013**, at the hour of 1:30 p.m., at the **entrance to the Law Offices of S. Joshua Berger, D'Torres Building, Garapan, CNMI**. Registration for the auction sale will begin at 1:15 p.m.

2. Change of Terms and Conditions. The undersigned reserves the right to change the terms hereof by announcement, written or oral, before the auction date and time or at the commencement thereof, and such change or changes, by virtue of this clause, will be binding on all bidders by constructive notice.

DATED, this 11th day of September, 2013.

/s/ Micheline W. Brel
MICHELINE W. BREL, Auctioneer
Tel: (670) 235-8060
Fax: (670) 235-8070
E-mail: michbrel@hotmail.com

MICHAEL A. WHITE, ESQ. F0122
THE LAW OFFICES OF MICHAEL A. WHITE, LLC
POST OFFICE BOX 5222
SAIPAN, MARIANA ISLANDS 96950
TEL: (670) 234-6547
FAX: (670) 234-9537

ATTORNEYS FOR Plaintiff

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE
COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN
MARIANA ISLANDS

CITY TRUST BANK,)
Plaintiff,)
)
-v-) CIVIL ACTION
) NO. 06-0054

DANIEL JOSEPH M.) TENTH AMENDED
CABRERA and) NOTICE OF SALE
MAGDALENA S.)
CABRERA,)
Defendants.)

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to an Order issued by the Court in this matter on September 19, 2008, I will sell, at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the terms and conditions set forth hereinbelow, all the right, title, and interest of Defendants in and to the following property: (a) Lot No. 005 1 180, situated in Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, a more particularly described on Drawing/Cadastral Plat No. 005 1 02, the original of which was recorded March 11, 1983, as Document No. 16707, at the Commonwealth Recorder's Office, Saipan; and (b) Tract No. 225840-1-1, located in Chalan Kanoa, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, as more particularly described on DLS Check No. 2119/92, deeded to Daniel Muna Cabrera on August 24, 1998, and recorded as File No. 99-2096 on September 3, 1999.

Date, Time, and Place of Sale. The sale will be held on Friday, October 4, 2013, at the hour of 1:30 p.m., at The Law Offices of Michael A. White, LLC, Joeten Center, Susupe, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands. The sale will be open to the general public.

Terms and Conditions of Sale. The Terms and Conditions of Sale may be obtained from the undersigned, either prior to or at the sale. These terms and conditions shall govern the conduct of the sale.

DATED, this 1st day of September, 2013:

/s/ MICHAEL A. WHITE, Auctioneer

MICHAEL A. WHITE, ESQ. F0122
THE LAW OFFICES OF MICHAEL A. WHITE, LLC
POST OFFICE BOX 5222
SAIPAN, MARIANA ISLANDS 96950
TEL: (670) 234-6547
FAX: (670) 234-9537

ATTORNEYS FOR Plaintiff

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE
COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN
MARIANA ISLANDS

COMMONWEALTH)
GOVERNMENT) CIVIL ACTION
EMPLOYEES CREDIT) NO. 05-0382
UNION,)
Plaintiff,) TENTH AMENDED
-v-) NOTICE OF SALE

MARIANO S. NAPUTI,)
Defendant.)

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to an Order issued by the Court in this matter on November 3, 2006, I will sell, at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the terms and conditions set forth hereinbelow, all the right, title, and interest of Defendant in and to the following property: Lot No. 002 G 334, situated in Kagman II, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, containing an area of 929 square meters, more or less, as more particularly described on Drawing/Cadastral Plat No. 002 G 08, the original of which was recorded May 14, 1990, as document No. 90-1905, at the Commonwealth Recorder's Office, Saipan.

Date, Time, and Place of Sale. The sale will be held on Friday, October 4, 2013, at the hour of 1:30 p.m., at The Law Offices of Michael A. White, LLC, Joeten Center, Susupe, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands. The sale will be open to the general public.

Terms and Conditions of Sale. The Terms and Conditions of Sale may be obtained from the undersigned, either prior to or at the sale. These terms and conditions shall govern the conduct of the sale.

DATED, this 1st day of September, 2013:

/s/ MICHAEL A. WHITE, Auctioneer

Melinda M. Rogolifoi
P.O. Box 501533
Saipan, MP 96950
Telephone No.: 288-3515

PRO SE

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT
OF THE
COMMONWEALTH OF THE
NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

In The Matter Of) FCD AD CIVIL
The Adoption Of:) ACTION
G. Z. R.) NO. 13-0426
(D.O.B. 8/15/2013))
Minor Child,) NOTICE OF
) HEARING

By:)
)
Melinda M. Rogolifoi)
Petitioner)

Notice is hereby given that the above-entitled matter is set for a hearing on October 28, 2013 at 1:30 p.m. in Courtroom 205A, before the Honorable Judge Kenneth L. Govendo.

Dated this 13th day of September, 2013.

Patrick V. Diaz
Clerk of Court
/s/ Deputy Clerk of Court

Science & Technology

Tech tips: Some tricks with new iOS 7, iPhones

CUPERTINO, Calif. (AP)—Apple's new iPhones and iOS 7 operating system for mobile devices are packed with new features, although not of all them are readily apparent. I've had a chance to learn a few tricks in the week I spent with both the iPhone 5C and the iPhone 5S, which come with iOS 7 installed.

Here are five things to know if you download the software on one of Apple's older mobile devices starting Wednesday or buy a new iPhone starting Friday. The update is available for free for the iPhone 4, 4S and 5 models, the iPad 2 and later, the iPad Mini and the iPod Touch released last year. You'll need about 3 gigabytes of free storage.

TIP 1: CONTROL CENTER AND SWIPES

Many of the improvements added to iOS 7 are delivered after swiping from various edges of the screen. This redesign is meant to make it easier to navigate, but there is no guide for knowing when and how to swipe. Fortunately, you can still use an iPhone the traditional way, by tapping on an icon or button, even if you don't learn all the new ways to swipe.

As a general rule of thumb, keep swiping from various edges to see what happens. If you discover something neat, remember it for next time. Swiping may produce different results if you're in the lock screen, the home screen or an app.

Here's a guide to the basic swipes:

- From the lock screen, swipe up from the bottom right corner to access the camera. This is a holdover from iOS 6.

- Whether locked or unlocked, swipe up from anywhere else along the bottom edge to get the Control Center. It gives you easy access to frequently accessed settings such as Airplane Mode and Wi-Fi. It also gets you to key apps such as the flashlight feature and the clock, for timing how long the turkey needs to be in the oven. There's a volume control, but only for audio and video playback. You need the volume buttons for the ringer and alerts.

- Swipe down from the top edge to get the Notification Center. You'll see the day's highlights, including the weather, appointments and stock quotes. Tap on "All" or "Missed" near the top to get recent notifications from Gmail, Facebook and other services.

- Swipe down from anywhere else on the screen to get a search box.

- From various Apple apps, try swiping from the left or the right. Not every app will respond, but many will. With the Safari browser, for instance, you



can use the left and right swipes in place of the back and forward buttons.

TIP 2: ORGANIZING AND SHARING PHOTOS

The new Photos app organizes your photos into moments,

based on when and where you took the photos. Several moments will be grouped into a collection, such as a vacation to Europe. Collections will then be grouped by year. It's all automated, so you can't reorganize shots if you would rather break

a collection into two. But it's better than having hundreds of unorganized photos.

From any moment, collection or year, click on the header on top of the photos to pull out a map showing all the places you've been, with the number of shots taken at each. You can share entire moments, by hitting "Share" on the right side of that header. A menu should pop out from the bottom. It's tricky because it's easy to miss and hit "Select" above it instead.

Once you have the moment or set of photos chosen, another menu will pop out from the bottom, giving you such choices as sharing by email, Facebook, Flickr or text messaging.

TIP 3: ASK SIRI

Frustrated with Siri's inability to hear what you're trying to say? Instead of repeating yourself over and over, you can click "tap to edit" to make the change manually. You shouldn't have to with voice search, but fixing one letter is still easier than having to type in the entire phrase.

Just for fun, you can give Siri a sex change by going to the settings, choosing "General," then "Siri," then "Voice Gender." You can now use Siri to change

phone settings and return recent calls. And Siri will speak out turn-by-turn directions when walking. Before, the vocal instructions were limited to driving directions in Maps.

TIP 4: FREEBIES

Apple's new streaming music service, iTunes Radio, is easy to find. Click on the Music icon at the bottom of each home screen, then choose "Radio" at the bottom. Create music stations by choosing some genres you like. Then fine-tune your picks by hitting the star when a tune is playing. You can ask the service to play more songs like it or remove that song from future playlists entirely. You can also create new stations based on specific songs or artists. The service will try to find other songs like them.

Best of all, it's free. Just prepare to put up with some ads, unless you subscribe to Apple's iTunes Match for \$25 a year.

Meanwhile, you might qualify for some free apps—Pages for word processing, Numbers for spreadsheets, Keynote for presentations, iPhoto for photo editing and iMovie for movie editing. They usually cost \$5 or \$10 each. To qualify, you need to buy a new iPhone, iPad or iPod Touch. The offer is retroactive to Sept. 1. Once a new device is activated, the app can be downloaded for free to other devices on the

same account, as long as the device is upgraded to iOS 7.

TIP 5: FINGERPRINTING

With the new fingerprint ID system on the iPhone 5S, there's no longer a reason to avoid protecting your phone with a passcode. I know passcodes can be very disruptive. I've often lost my train of thought before I could get to an app to jot something down. But your fingerprint now bypasses the need to type in a four-digit code in many situations.

It's easy to set up. The iPhone will walk you through scanning one finger when you set up the phone. You can scan four more fingers—yours or someone else's—by going to the settings. Go to "General," then "Passcode & Fingerprint."

I'm still confronted with passcode screens, especially when I need to authenticate an app purchase. It took me a few days to realize that even though you're asked for a passcode, the fingerprint usually works unless the phone specifically tells you otherwise.

One more thing: The screen needs to be on for the fingerprint sensor to work. To save a step, just press on the home button firmly and let the button pop back up. But keep your finger lightly touching the button's surface. The hard press will activate the screen, and the light touch will unlock the phone.

Message of Appreciation

We, the family of the late

† **Felix
Lizama
Babauta**

wish to express our appreciation and gratitude to all our family and friends who unselfishly shared their sympathy and support as we mourn the passing of our loved one.

Your thoughtful prayers, compassion and untiring presence during the nightly mass and rosary are deeply appreciated.

Your kindness and generosity will remain in our hearts.

**Un Dangkulu Na Si Yu'us Ma'ase
Ginen I Familia**

In Celebration of His New Life

† **Joaquin Ayuyu
Taitingfong**

of As Lito was called to his eternal rest in the grace of our Lord on Monday, September 16, 2013.

In his new life, he now joins his:

Wife: Anihna Solomon Taitingfong

Father: Daniel Campos Taitingfong

Mother: Ana Ayuyu Taitingfong

He is survived by:

Children and Grandchildren:

Ruthie Ann T. and Boom Guerrero (Lee, Leneah, and Lesihna)

Jackson Taitingfong (Ayleah and Jaz)

Dania-Ali Taitingfong and David Sam

Jaeannaly Danica Taitingfong

Jae'ahnica Daneah Taitingfong

Also, he will be missed by numerous Brothers, Sisters, In-Laws, Aunts, Uncles, Nieces, Nephews, Godparents, Godchildren and Friends.

Daily Mass of Intention is offered at St. Jude Church as follows:

Friday, September 20, 2013 — 6:00 p.m.

Saturday, September 21, 2013 — 7:00 a.m.

Sunday, September 22, 2013 — 6:00 a.m. — 8:00 a.m. — 10:00 a.m.

Monday, September 23, 2013 — 6:00 p.m.

On **Tuesday, September 24, 2013**, our beloved father †**Joaquin** will be escorted from CHC morgue at 7:30 a.m. to St. Jude Church for Responso, Holy Rosary, and viewing. Mass of Christian burial will be celebrated at 10:30 a.m. followed by interment service at Chalan Kanoa cemetery.

Thank You - Si Yu'us Ma'ase

From the Children and Family

Life & Style

'Hi Life' TV show covers Saipan, Tinian



MVA

Hosts of Shanghai TV's "Hi Life" program highlight a delightful afternoon at DFS Saipan including a photo-op with Saipan-da! The program will air to an estimated 150 million viewers in China. The show is anticipated to bring an estimated \$1.3 million in advertising exposure value to the Northern Mariana Islands.



MVA

The TV crew of Shanghai TV's "Hi Life" has a romantic moment at the White Sands Chapel of Hyatt Regency Saipan during their filming in the Northern Marianas on Sept. 8, 2013.



MVA

Shanghai TV's "Hi Life" hosts play golf with a pro at Lao Lao Bay Golf Resort during their third day filming on Saipan and Tinian in September 2013.



MVA

"Hi Life" television program hosts reenact a scene from the movie *Titanic* during a sunset dinner cruise on Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands in September 2013.

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Fri.(400 PM) 720 PM 1035 PM
Sat.(1245 PM) 720 1035
Sun.(1245 PM) 400 PM 720 PM
Mon.(400 PM) 720 PM

THE FAMILY [CC] (R)
Fri.(435 PM) 735 PM 1025 PM
Sat.(145 PM) 735 1025
Sun.(145 PM) 435 PM 735 PM
Mon.(435 PM) 735 PM

RIDDICK [CC] (R)
Fri.(430 PM) 730 PM 1015 PM
Sat.(130 PM) 730 1015
Sun.(130 PM) 430 PM 730 PM
Mon.(430 PM) 730 PM

ONE DIRECTION EXTENDED 3D [CC] (PG)
Fri. - Sat.(440 PM) 945 PM
Sun. - Mon.(440 PM)

ONE DIRECTION EXTENDED 3D [CC] (PG)
Fri. 715 PM
Sat. - Sun.(220 PM) 715 PM
Mon. 715 PM

MORTAL INSTRUMENTS 3D [CC] (PG-13)
Fri. 705 PM
Sat. - Sun.(115 PM) 705 PM
Mon. 705 PM

LEE DANIELS' THE BUTLER [CC] (NR)
Fri.(410 PM) 710 PM 1010 PM
Sat.(110 PM) 710 1010
Sun.(110 PM) 410 PM 710 PM
Mon.(410 PM) 710 PM

PLANES [CC] (PG)
Fri. - Sat.(420 PM) 1005 PM
Sun. - Mon.(445 PM)

PERCY JACKSON: SEA OF MONSTERS 3D [CC] (PG)
Fri. - Sat. 725 PM 1020 PM
Sun. - Mon. 725 PM

PERCY JACKSON: SEA OF MONSTERS 3D [CC] (PG)
Fri.(425 PM)
Sat. - Sun.(125 PM) 425 PM
Mon.(425 PM)

Times For 09/20 - 09/23 © 2013 www.REGmovies.com

Hundreds of kids audition for 'The Sound of Music'

NEW YORK (AP)—The smiles were large and the hopes even bigger—but the odds were long.

As many as 700 boys and girls attended an open casting call on Sunday to try to win six spots as von Trapp siblings in the upcoming NBC live broadcast of "The Sound of Music" opposite Carrie Underwood.

During a grueling day, the hopefuls were split up into seven rooms in the Grace Church School so casting directors from the Telsey + Company agency could weed out the potential gems.

After an initial screening, potential candidates were sent to a special room overseen by agency founder Bernie Telsey, who estimates he saw at least 80 children. He said he fell in love with about 10 candidates and will call-back up to 25 to be seen by the show's directors.

"I think we found someone from that open call. Someone from that will be in the show. That's how confident I feel,"

Telsey said later. Next stop: A singing and dancing role in front of millions live on TV on Dec. 5. "That's so exciting. It's wild when you think about it that way," he said.

The spots available were for Louisa, Brigitta, Marta, Gretl, Friedrich, and Kurt von Trapp. The role of Liesl, the eldest of the seven von Trapps, will be filled by a professional since it's a larger role, including tackling the song "Sixteen Going on Seventeen."

The rest of the cast will be made up of Tony Award winners Audra McDonald, Laura Benanti and Christian Borle. British actor Stephen Moyer, best known for his role as Bill Compton in HBO's "True Blood," will portray Capt. Georg Von Trapp. The Rodgers and Hammerstein musical debuted on Broadway in 1959 and the 1965 film starring Julie Andrews won the best picture Academy Award.

The open casting call—for children who can play between 6-14—will be supplemented

by traditional casting methods, such as agents and managers. The one over the weekend was the only chance for starry-eyed children to get a shot who have no show biz connections. "Anytime we're doing a kid project we try to do that," said Telsey.

Each candidate was asked to sing a part of a song they brought in or pick from among four songs the kids sing in the show. If that went well, another song was performed. Then Telsey would test out their ability to take direction.

"It was surprising to me how many of them did not know 'The Sound of Music' music. It didn't come naturally to them because they're so many generations younger. It's not like they've watched it over and over like they have 'Newsies' or 'Annie.'"

The ones who eventually survive the process will begin a six-week rehearsal period starting in mid-October. The live element of the telecast means a certain quickness is expected of the candidates.

Defense rests case in trial over Jackson's death

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Lawyers for concert promoter AEG Live LLC rested their defense Wednesday with testimony from a longtime friend and doctor of Michael Jackson in the negligence case filed by Jackson's mother over his death.

The trial is in its 21st week and jurors are expected to begin deliberations next week.

Defense attorneys provided an emotional finale to their presentation, playing the videotaped testimony of Jackson's physician Dr. Allan Metzger.

With Katherine Jackson seated in the courtroom's front row, jurors heard Metzger deliver a tribute to the star.

"I saw him as a great guy ... a wonderful, generous person," said Metzger, whose account, given on videotape a year ago, delivered perhaps the most human view of the superstar by any witness.

Metzger spoke of Jackson's decision to embark on the ul-

timately ill-fated "This Is It" tour to eradicate the stigma of his child molestation trial.

"He wanted to redeem Michael Jackson," said Metzger who visited with the singer at home three months before Jackson died and told of the heart-to-heart talk with him.

"He wanted to redeem his image," the doctor said. "He felt this was it and he wanted to go out with a flash. He was still terribly hurt about the trial and the accusations."

Jackson was tried and acquitted in a sensational molestation trial in 2005 then lived abroad for a time and returned to rehearse for his "This Is It" tour.

Metzger's testimony contradicted many accounts of Jackson as a tortured figure in his last months, forced to commit to more concerts than he was capable of doing and turning to prescription drugs to chase away his demons and find the elusive sleep he craved.

Neil Patrick Harris rolls out Emmys red carpet

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Emmy host Neil Patrick Harris isn't planning to leave the stage during Sunday's ceremony unless he's really, really gotta go.

"I'll be staying on stage the whole show—with a few exceptions," the second-time Emmy host teased after ceremoniously unraveling the red carpet Wednesday morning. "I thought about having a colostomy bag, but I thought that would not be good for the first few rows. It would be like a Gallagher show if things go wrong, so I may have to excuse myself for a minute or three a couple of times during the show."

Harris, whose "How I Met Your Mother" is entering its ninth and final season, said he doesn't feel like he has to prove himself after previously hosting the Emmy and Tony Awards.

"There's a lot of awards, so I thankfully don't have to do a lot of work," he said. "I get to come up with some funny one-liners. If someone vomits, I get to joke



Ken Ehrlich, left, executive producer of Sunday's 65th Emmy Awards telecast, host Neil Patrick Harris, center, and Television Academy Chairman and CEO Bruce Rosenblum roll out the red carpet for the show during Emmy Awards Press Preview Day, on Wednesday, Sept. 18, 2013, in Los Angeles.

about it, but there's not a lot of vomit. Charlie Sheen hasn't been on 'Two and a Half Men' for years."

For the sixth year, the show will be held at the Nokia The-

atre in downtown Los Angeles. The massive red carpet—more like a red sidewalk, really—will canvass the entire plaza across the street from the Staples Center for Sunday's TV extravagan-

za on CBS.

Harris said he's interested to see how programming from Netflix and other online streaming services will fare at the ceremony and beyond.

Spike Lee to receive \$300,000 Gish Prize

NEW YORK (AP)—Spike Lee will receive the 20th annual Dorothy and Lillian Gish Prize, which carries a reward of \$300,000.

The Gish Prize Trust announced the selection Wednesday. Selection committee chairman Darren Walker said Lee was chosen "for his brilliance and unwavering courage in using film to challenge conventional thinking."

Lee said in an interview that was he well acquainted with Lillian Gish as the actress of "The Birth of a Nation" and "The Night of the Hunter," but he was unfamiliar with the prize that was established in Gish's will. She requested that the prize, one of the largest and most prestigious in the arts, be given every year to "a man or woman who has made an outstanding contribution to the beauty of the world and to mankind's enjoyment and understanding of life."



SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Grace Jones memoir planned for next fall

NEW YORK (AP)—Grace Jones, who once vowed she'd never write a memoir, has changed her mind. The model, actress, singer and Studio 54 legend has an agreement with Gallery Books for a book scheduled to come out next fall. Gallery, an imprint of Simon & Schuster, announced Wednesday that the book is currently untitled. In a statement released by Gallery, Jones noted that her song "Art Groupie" began with the line, "I'll never write my memoirs." What made her give in? If she didn't do it, someone else would. Among the stories the 65-year-old Jones plans to share: rooming with Jerry Hall

and hanging out with Jessica Lange, collaborating with Andy Warhol, and acting with Arnold Schwarzenegger.

Magic Johnson launches program for at-risk kids

CHICAGO (AP)—Earvin "Magic" Johnson is getting a little help from Chicago rapper Common for his newest off-court endeavor. The former NBA star launched his "Friends of Magic" initiative Wednesday. The idea is to help at-risk students, including dropouts, graduate from high school. Johnson, Common and Illinois Gov. Pat Quinn attended the event at Magic Johnson Bridgescape Academy in Chicago, an education facility backed in part by Johnson's busi-

ness enterprises. An emotional Johnson spoke after listening to one of the students who has had success in the academy's education programs. Wiping away tears, Johnson said he's trying to give back and felt gratified by his organization's work. Magic Johnson Bridgescape Academy contracts with Chicago Public Schools to help dropouts. Common is a Grammy-winning artist and actor.

Wife of bounty hunter 'Dog' denies harassing teen

COLORADO SPRINGS, Colo. (AP)—The wife of TV bounty hunter Duane "Dog" Chapman has denied verbally harassing a 16-year-old girl at a

more tempo on this record, as evidenced by the first single," Young said. "It's more a snapshot of what my live show is than any record that I think I have done."

Young had a brief hospitalization in August for a leg infection, but he's recovered and returned to the stage. Touring alongside Brad Paisley has Young already thinking about what he would do on his own headlining tour. While he's done some headlining shows, he's still working on building a fan base that can support a large headlining tour.

Chris Young takes next step with 'A.M.'

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP)—Chris Young was nervous about his new single "Aw Naw."

The 28-year-old Tennessee native releases his new album "A.M." this week after a string of No. 1 hits. He wasn't sure how "Aw Naw" would fit in that line of singles because it was so different from what he's done over his previous three albums.

"It's working at radio, it's doing what it's supposed to do," Young said. "It's downloading and it's hopefully going to help move a lot of records. ... It's def-

initely a shot in the arm to my live show."

Traditional country fans have embraced Young's deep voice and songwriting, and he's mostly focused on crooning love ballads so far. But the new party single mixes in double electric guitars and stronger drumbeats for a sound that can fill arenas—something he's been studying out on the road as an opening act.

"We did some stuff sonically, mastering-wise that's a little bit different than anything I have done before and there's

Music Hall of Fame member and joined her band.

"Rodney and I, maybe we're just arrogant, but we feel like we were Americana before it got a name," Harris told the crowd.

First-time nominees Hearst and Trent, from Charleston, S.C., performed "Birmingham" for the crowd, and later seemed stunned by their win—which came over The Lumineers' omnipresent hit "Ho Hey."

Harris, Crowell win 2 trophies at Americana Awards

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP)—The power of two voices raised in harmony was on display Wednesday night at the Americana Music Honors & Awards as Emmylou Harris and Rodney Crowell and the husband-wife duo Shovels & Rope earned top honors.

Each duo won two awards during the annual roots rock celebration at Ryman Auditorium. Old friends Harris and Crowell won

album of the year for their collaboration "Old Yellow Moon," and duo-group of the year. And Cary Ann Hearst and Michael Trent of Shovels & Rope won song of the year for "Birmingham" and emerging artist of the year.

"Old Yellow Moon" was the most recent collaboration in a 40-year friendship between Crowell and Harris, who met in the mid-1970s when Crowell wrote songs for the Country

Father's continuing dalliance takes a toll on mom's health

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
FROM UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

DEAR ABBY: My father admitted to having an affair a few years ago. At the time, my mother was very upset and threatened to leave, but somehow they worked it out. However, he is still seeing this woman. They talk on the phone for hours, and he visits her house frequently, leaving my mother alone for extended periods of time.



When I ask my mother why they are still in contact, she doesn't want to talk about it, and my father seems to think he isn't doing anything wrong. Normally I wouldn't get involved, but I'm worried about my mother's health, which wasn't quite great to begin with and has gone downhill since this all started. Is there anything I can do in this situation?

WORRIED ABOUT MOM

DEAR WORRIED: It appears your parents made a deal with each other—he would live his own life and they would remain married. Because it is affecting your mother's health, suggest that she discuss this with her physician and perhaps get a referral to a therapist who can provide her with emotional support during this difficult time. If she agrees, it could help her physically and emotionally because stress and depression have been known to make people sick.

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: My partner, "Rob," and I are delighted we can finally marry in our home state of California. When we do, how do you suggest we answer the question that straight married couples often get, "How long have you two been married?"

Rob and I have been together for 17 years, and it's not our fault that we didn't get married many years ago. Without having to make a political statement each time we're asked, should we simply tack on the number of years we've been together without the benefit of marriage? I'm proud of the time we've been a couple, and even prouder that I love Rob as much today as when we first fell for each other.

What should the answer be after we tie the knot?

KEN IN THE GOLDEN STATE

DEAR KEN: Congratulations on your forthcoming nuptials. The answer you should give is the most accurate one: "Rob and I have been married for (insert the number) years and together for 17 years before that." To say that is not making a political statement; it's the unvarnished truth.

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: My husband and I have been together for 13 years. We live in the country with livestock. I was taught to remove my shoes when I entered my house, especially since I was raised on a farm. My husband wasn't required to do the same as he was growing up.

I have asked him for the last 10 years to kindly take his shoes off when he comes in so he won't track dirt, mud, manure, etc. into the house. He absolutely REFUSES. I have explained my reasons repeatedly and told him it hurts my feelings and makes me feel disrespected. He still won't do it. Can you please tell me why? Am I being too demanding?

TIRED OF WALKING ON GRIT AND POOP

DEAR TIRED: I don't think so. Your reasons for wanting his dirty shoes off seem sensible to me. From where I sit, it appears your husband cares little for your feelings, isn't concerned about any extra work he creates and stopped listening to you 10 years ago. You have my sympathy, and I sincerely hope he has some virtues that compensate for his selective deafness.

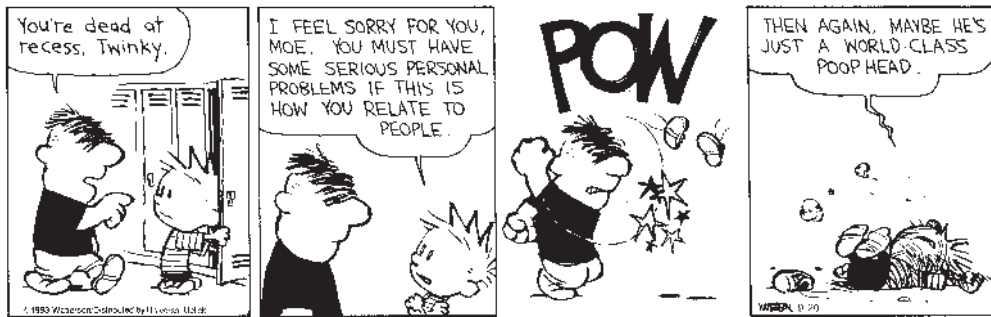
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Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



Garfield®

By Jim Davis



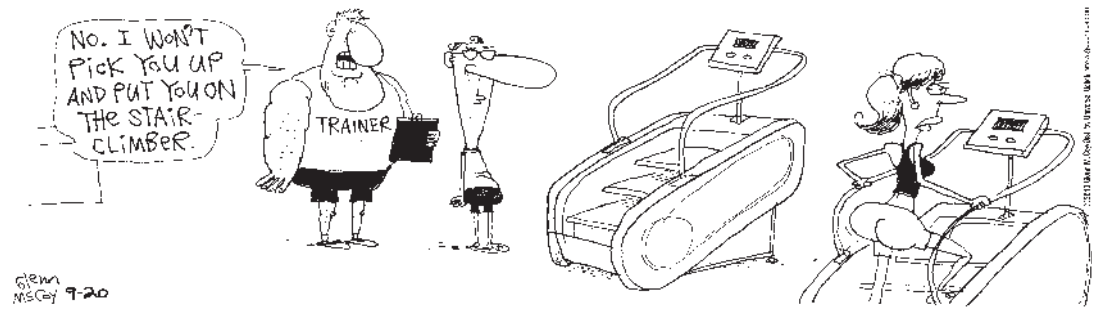
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

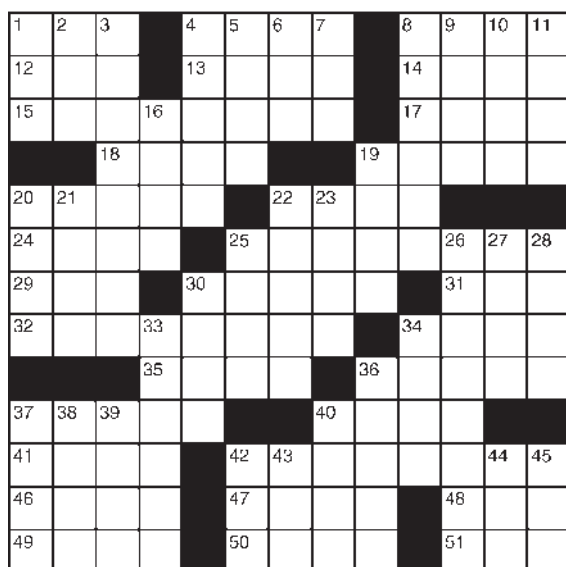
By Eugene Sheffer

- ACROSS**
- 1 Pickle holder
4 Bumps off
8 Unfriendly
12 Work with
13 Void partner
14 Reed instru-
ment
15 Without talking
17 Friend of Dorothy
18 Duel tool
19 Dark, as twilight
20 Barber-shop quartet member
22 Morose
24 Chart toppers
25 One of Monopoly's light blue avenues
- DOWN**
- 1 Roast beef au
2 "— was saying, ..."
3 Gave in
4 Kind of circle or tube
5 Adorable piece
6 Right angle
7 Crafty
8 Op-ed
9 Sapporo sashes
10 Gander
11 Say it isn't so
16 Heroic poem
19 Air for a pair
- 20** Chris Hemsworth title role
21 Green land
22 Meat moistener
23 Biographer's write-up
25 Exam format
26 Adept
27 Met melody
28 Start
30 Gloomy
33 Thyroid problem
34 Press the rules
37 Upper-case
38 Waikiki wingding
39 Initial chip
40 Antlered herd
42 Orchestra's place
43 Indivisible
44 Earlier
45 Scatter seed

Solution time: 25 mins.



Yesterday's answer 9-20



STUMPED?

For answers to today's crossword, call 1-800-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Juan Pablo Montoya, 38; Kristen Johnston, 46; Gary Cole, 57; Sophia Loren, 79.

Happy Birthday: Your willingness to try new things and travel a unique path will result in your being offered greater challenges and richer rewards. Don't give in to ultimatums. Trust in your ability to reach your goals. Use your personal space to develop something that will add to your confidence or lead to a better lifestyle. Embrace change. Your numbers are 2, 8, 17, 19, 27, 34, 45.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Make up your mind and stick to your plans. Inconsistency will end up being emotionally costly and could affect your productivity. Stick to what needs to be done and refuse to go overboard, overreact or overspend to compensate. ★★★

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Being secretive can benefit you short-term, but eventually you are going to have to share what you have been doing or thinking. Consider the best way to break the news to those who will be most affected by your decision. ★★★

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Size up whatever situation you face and make a move. Taking action and control will ensure that you don't lose out. You may not please everyone, but in the end you will be able to excel and satisfy your needs. ★★★★★

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Do things differently. Whether you are engaging in a new relationship or embarking on an adventure, you will get the most out of taking an

unfamiliar path. Love and romance will lead to a promise or stronger commitment. ★★

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Weigh the pros and cons of any situation you face before making a commitment. You don't want to upset someone you care about or feel responsible for because you haven't scheduled your time wisely. Don't let infatuation lead you down a slippery slope. ★★★★★

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Question any financial, legal or medical issue that arises. Don't make a hasty decision. You are best to do your research and take whatever matter you face into your own hands. Be responsible for the outcome of any dilemma you encounter. ★★★

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Take whatever is said in stride. Believe in yourself and what you can do. Getting all worked up is a waste of time. Make changes that include weeding out people who don't share your values or offer equality in the relationship. ★★★

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Ask for favors and make last-minute changes to ensure everything is the way you want it. Let your memories and past experiences guide you forward with regard to life lessons. Love is in the stars, and romance will enhance your life. ★★★

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Make positive changes. You can lower your overhead or turn a service or idea you can offer into a lucrative pastime. Most of all, find ways to do things you enjoy and turn a profit at the same time. ★★★★★

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Don't be too quick to judge. Making fast decisions will lead to mistakes that will be difficult to reverse. Focus on what you do well and avoid an emotional matter that can get you into trouble with a partner, friend or relative. ★★



AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Revisiting your past may not be easy, but it may be necessary if you are having trouble moving forward where personal matters are concerned. Consider what you have given up in the past and focus on what you can gain now. ★★★★★



PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Invest in your talent and goals. Explore your options and talk to people you feel can contribute something positive, and you will get the results you want. Don't be afraid to be a little different—your vivid imagination will entice interest. ★★★

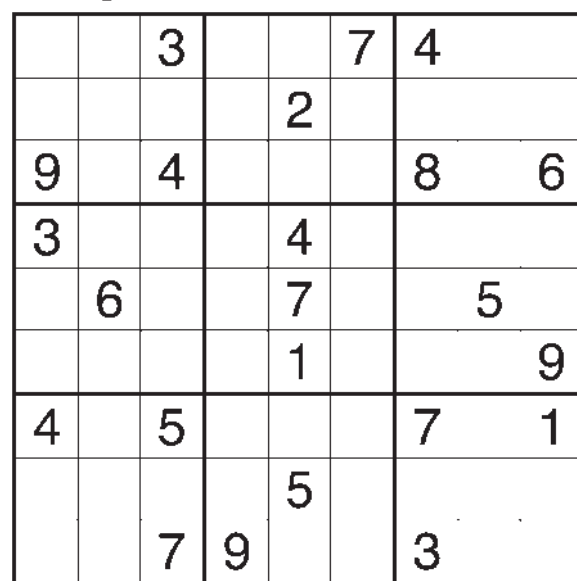
Birthday Baby: You are dedicated, unpredictable and play to win. You are a doer.

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SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green

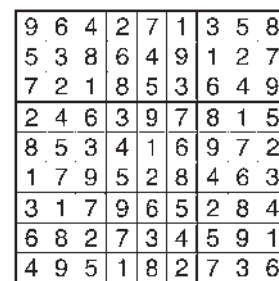


Difficulty Level ★★★★★

9/20

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer



Difficulty Level ★★★

9/19

WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD. The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

SNAPCHAT (SMARTPHONE APP)

Solution: 9 letters



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Yesterday's Answer: Secrets
THE COLLECTED WONDERWORD, Volume 34 s "Celebrities Vo. 3." To purchase, call toll-free, 1-800-642-6480. Order online at wonderword.universaljclick.com. (Contains 43 puzzles.)

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Jennings' RBI single in 12th lifts Rays past Texas



ST. PETERSBURG, Fla. (AP)—

Desmond Jennings had an RBI single in the 12th inning and Tampa Bay took over the top spot in the American League wild-card playoff race by beating Texas 4-3 on Wednesday.

Texas has a half-game lead over Cleveland, which lost at Kansas City, for the second wild card.

Jose Lobaton opened the 12th with a single off Joseph Ortiz (2-2) and pinch-runner Sam Fuld went to second on Yunel Escobar's bunt. Fuld scored on Jennings' hit to right center.

Brandon Gomes (2-1) struck out Ian Kinsler with runners on second and third with two outs in the top of the 12th for the Rays, who have won two of the first three games of the four-game series.

Texas took a 3-2 lead in the 11th when Elvis Andrus scored from first base on Adrian Beltré's two-out single.

The Rays tied it on David DeJesus' RBI single in the bottom of the inning as Matt Joyce drew a two-out walk from Rangers closer Joe Nathan and pinch-runner Freddy Guzman stole second and scored on DeJesus' single. It was Nathan's third blown save in 42 chances this season.

Sean Rodriguez, who had just two hits in his previous 16 at-bats against Rangers' starter Derek Holland, tied it at 2-all in the sixth with a two-run homer off the left-hander.

Orioles 5, Red Sox 3, 12 innings

In Boston, Chris Davis hit a tiebreaking two-run single with two outs in the 12th inning to lift Baltimore.

Matt Wieters had two RBI doubles for Baltimore, which closed to within one game of Texas for the AL's second wild-card spot in the playoffs. The Rangers lost 4-3 in 12 innings to the wild card-leading Rays.

T.J. McFarland (2-1) worked the 11th for the win and Jim Johnson got the final three outs for his AL-leading 47th save.

The Orioles played their 114th errorless game, surpassing the 2008 Houston Astros for Major League Baseball's most since 1900.

J.J. Hardy and Brian Roberts had consecutive one-out singles and both advanced on a wild pitch by Franklin Morales (2-2). After pinch-hitter Steve Pearce was intentionally walked, Manny Machado fouled out before Davis' grounded one up the middle into center field.

Boston had runners on first and second with one out in the 11th, but Stephen Drew grounded into a double play.

David Ortiz hit his 28th home run—a two-run shot—and Mike Napoli added a solo homer for the Red Sox.

Royals 7, Indians 2

In Kansas City, Missouri, Bruce Chen worked five innings and Salvador Perez doubled home two runs for Kansas City.

Cleveland is a half-game behind in the AL wild-card playoff race while the Royals are 2½ games back.

Chen was pulled in the sixth after giving up a single to Michael Bourn and walking Nick Swisher to lead off the inning.

Francisley Bueno replaced Chen and recorded two outs with three pitches.

Royals relievers Tim Collins, Will Smith and Greg Holland preserved the lead, allowing just one hit.

The Royals broke the game open with three runs off four Indians pitchers in the eighth. Alcides Escobar had a two-run single, while Jarrod Dyson walked with the bases loaded.

Rookie Danny Salazar (1-3), who had allowed just one run in 13 2-3 innings in his first three September starts, took the loss, giving up four runs and six hits in six innings.

Angels 5, Athletics 4, 11 innings

In Oakland, California, Josh Hamilton hit a tying two-run homer in the ninth inning, then put the Angels ahead with a sacrifice fly in the 11th.

Hamilton connected against Grant Balfour, who blew his third save of the season. Jesse Chavez (2-4) was the loser.

Mike Trout added a two-run home run for the Angels, who won for the fourth time in five games.

Coco Crisp and Yoenis Cespedes each hit two-run home runs for the A's, who lost for the third time in 12 games. They entered Wednesday with a six-game lead over Texas in the AL West division.

Juan Gutierrez (1-4) pitched the 10th for the win. Ernesto Frieri worked the 11th for his 35th save in 39 chances.

Twins 4, White Sox 3

In Chicago, Scott Diamond pitched into the seventh inning for his first win since June as Minnesota avoided a three-game sweep.

Diamond (6-11) allowed three runs and five hits in 6 1-3 innings to earn his first MLB win since June 20 against the White Sox. Since then, he was 0-5 with a 6.20 ERA in eight starts.

Minnesota had scored four runs during the first two games of the series, but matched that in the first two innings, scoring once in the first and three times in the second against John Danks (4-14).

Oswaldo Arcia, Chris Colabello, Eric Fryer and Brian Dozier drove in runs that helped the Twins win for the second time in eight games.

Glen Perkins pitched a scoreless ninth for his 36th save in 40 tries, ending the White



Tampa Bay Rays right fielder Wil Myers can't make a diving catch on a first inning single by Texas Rangers' Elvis Andrus during an MLB American League baseball game Wednesday, Sept. 18, 2013, in St. Petersburg, Fla.

Sox's five-game winning streak against the Twins.

Yankees 4, Blue Jays 3

In Toronto, Vernon Wells had a go-ahead two-run double in the eighth inning and Mariano Rivera earned a four-out save as New York rallied from three runs down to end a four-game skid.

Robinson Cano drove in the Yankees' first run in this three-game series with a one-out single in the eighth. Alfonso Soriano followed with an RBI double, helping New York avoid falling farther behind in the AL wild-card playoff race.

New York entered 3½ games behind Tampa Bay and Texas for the second wild card.

David Huff (3-1) pitched 3 2-3 innings of relief to earn the win.

Colby Rasmus homered for the fourth straight game and Ryan Goins hit his first career homer but the Blue Jays couldn't hold on to a 3-0 lead, losing for the sixth time in eight games.

Mariners 8, Tigers 0

In Detroit, Hisashi Iwakuma extended his scoreless innings streak on the road to 25 and Seattle's Justin Smoak homered off Justin Verlander.

Iwakuma (13-6) matched his career high going eight innings, giving up just four hits and one unintentional walk. His 25-inning scoreless streak on the road matches a franchise record.

Verlander (13-11) allowed three runs, four hits, walked three and struck out six over seven innings. He was hoping to win consecutive starts for the first time in more than three months.

The AL Central-leading Tigers had won three straight and six of seven to close in on their third straight division title.

Iwakuma, who became an MLB All-Star this year in his second season, joined Randy Johnson (1994) and Brian Holman (1989) as Mariners who

have thrown 25 straight scoreless innings on the road.

Reds 6, Astros 5, 13 innings

In Houston, Jay Bruce's two-run double in the 13th inning put Cincinnati ahead for good.

Rookie base-stealing specialist Billy Hamilton got his first three career hits, had four steals and scored the go-ahead run in his first major league start.

Hamilton walked to start the 13th and stole second before Shin-Soo Choo walked. They advanced on a wild pitch before Jorge De Leon (0-1) intentionally walked Joey Votto with one out.

Bruce's third double of the game made it 6-4.

Alfredo Simon (6-4) pitched three scoreless innings for Cincinnati. Aroldis Chapman allowed a hit and a run in the 13th, but struck out Chris Carter to end the 5-hour, 18-minute game for his 37th save.

Padres 3, Pirates 2

In Pittsburgh, Logan Forsythe and Rene Rivera delivered consecutive RBI singles in the ninth inning off Pittsburgh closer Mark Melancon as the San Diego Padres rallied for a 3-2 victory.

Forsythe's single to right scored pinch-runner Andrew Cashner to tie it and Rivera's hit brought home Chris Denorfia as the Padres sent the Pirates to their third straight loss.

Pittsburgh fell two games behind St. Louis, which beat Colorado 4-3, for first place in the NL Central division. But the Pirates still inched closer to clinching one of the wild-card playoff spots for their first post-season berth in 21 years when Atlanta beat Washington.

Dale Thayer (3-5) picked up the win in relief. Huston Street pitched a perfect ninth for his 33rd save.

Melancon (2-2), who inherited the closer's role when All-Star Jason Grilli went out with a forearm injury in July, blew his third save of the season.

Diamondbacks 9, Dodgers 4

In Phoenix, Paul Goldschmidt homered and the Arizona Diamondbacks blew the game open late to prevent Los Angeles from clinching the NL West division title.

Goldschmidt's opposite-field two-run shot off Stephen Fife (4-4) in the first inning moved him into the NL lead with 34 home runs.

Yasiel Puig hit a solo home run for the Dodgers, who have lost five of six and get one more chance to clinch in Arizona in the series finale Thursday.

The Dodgers' Adrian Gonzalez was ejected after Michael Young was called out at the plate in a close play in the sixth inning.

Brandon McCarthy (5-9) went six-plus innings to get the victory. Arizona broke open a close game with five runs in the eighth.

Braves 5, Nationals 2

In Washington, Justin Upton and Dan Uggla each homered in a three-run sixth inning as the Braves rallied past the Nationals to close in on the NL East division title.

Brian McCann and Jordan Schafer also drove in runs as the Braves ended a three-game losing streak. Atlanta has not won the division since 2005, the last of 11 straight titles.

Kameron Loe (1-2) got one out for the win. Craig Kimbrel, Atlanta's seventh pitcher, rebounded from his loss Tuesday to record his 48th save.

Denard Span extended his hitting streak to 29 straight, the longest in Major League Baseball this season.

Cardinals 4, Rockies 3

In Denver, Adam Wainwright pitched effectively into the eighth after a shaky start and helped himself at the plate with three hits as the Cardinals beat the Rockies to expand their lead in the NL Central division race.

Wainwright (17-9) gave up two runs in the first and then

found his groove to earn his 17th win, second-most in the NL this season.

He went 3 for 3 with a double and two RBIs to help the Cardinals stretch their lead to two games over Pittsburgh after the Pirates lost 3-2 loss to San Diego.

Tyler Chatwood (7-5) allowed four runs in six innings before being lifted for a pinch hitter. Chatwood is rounding back into form after missing nearly a month with an inflamed right elbow.

Ross Ohlendorf (4-1) allowed three runs over six innings.

Marlins 4, Phillies 3, 10 innings

In Philadelphia, Ed Lucas homered in the 10th inning to lift the Marlins to a victory over the Phillies.

The Phillies loaded the bases with one out in the bottom of the inning but could not score after Roger Bernadina struck out and Freddy Galvis grounded out to end it.

The homer was the fourth of the season for Lucas. Miami's Giancarlo Stanton tied the game 3-all in the sixth inning with a two-run, homer to center field.

Brad Hand (1-1) got the victory for pitching a scoreless ninth.

Cesar Jimenez (1-1) was the loser as Miami ended its seven-game losing streak to Philadelphia.

Mets 5, Giants 4

In New York, Josh Satin hit a two-run single to cap a four-run rally in the ninth inning that sent the Mets past San Francisco.

Shut down by Matt Cain for almost eight innings, the make-shift Mets lineup put together a surprising comeback. Pinch-hitter Zach Lutz had an RBI double and Juan Centeno, making his major league debut, knocked in a run with a single off closer Sergio Romo (4-8).

Satin had three RBIs, including a sacrifice fly against Cain in the eighth. Vic Black (2-0) pitched a perfect inning for the win.

Gregor Blanco hit a two-run homer for San Francisco.

Brewers 7, Cubs 0

In Milwaukee, Sean Halton hit his first career grand slam and Tyler Thornburg allowed just two singles over six innings as the Brewers beat the Cubs.

Thornburg (3-1) struck out four and walked two as he reached six innings for the sixth straight start since being recalled from the minor leagues on June 29. He has allowed five earned runs in 36 innings as a starter and has also made 11 relief appearances for the Brewers this season.

Jimmy Nelson pitched two innings and Michael Blazek got the last three outs to preserve the four-hit shutout.

Halton's homer capped a five-run first inning off Chris Rusin (2-5).

Browns trade Trent Richardson to Colts



BEREA, Ohio (AP)—Not long ago, Trent Richardson was viewed as a cornerstone for Cleveland's future.

On Wednesday, he became part of its recent inglorious past.

The Browns traded the powerful running back to Indianapolis in a stunning move just two games into the season and one year after drafting Richardson in the first round.

The team's new front office dealt Richardson for a first-round draft pick next year, when the team will have two opening-round selections and 10 overall. Cleveland is rebuilding again and the team hopes to use those picks—even in the first four rounds—to help turn around a floundering franchise.

Such a reversal was what the Browns had in mind when they took Richardson with the No. 3 overall pick in 2012. The former Alabama standout seemed to have it all: power, speed and good hands.

But Richardson wasn't the kind of back Cleveland's front office wants or apparently suited first-year coach Rob Chudzinski's offense. Richardson, who rushed for 950 yards as a rookie despite playing most of last season with two broken ribs, gained just 105 yards on 31 carries in Cleveland's two losses this season.



In this Sunday, Sept. 15, 2013, photo, Cleveland Browns running back Trent Richardson carries the ball during an NFL football game against the Baltimore Ravens in Baltimore.

He lacked the explosiveness the Browns' new regime was looking for, and it may not have helped that Richardson made it clear he wanted the ball more.

However, Browns CEO Joe Banner said there was nothing negative about Richardson and the team simply seized an opportunity to improve. And the Colts have been looking for a back since Vick Ballard suffered a season-ending knee injury.

"This was more about the moment presented itself," Banner said, "and based on the situation the Colts found themselves in, it wasn't something where we could say, 'Can you wait three weeks to think about this or learn more?' We thought it was a move to make us better and we had to make that decision now. We decided to move forward."

Banner said the Browns' first conversation with Indianapolis

about a deal for Richardson was Tuesday.

The shocking trade—easily the biggest in Cleveland's expansion era and one of the most significant since the Browns joined the NFL in 1950—came on the same day Chudzinski announced third-string quarterback Brian Hoyer will start Sunday against Minnesota. Hoyer got the surprising nod over backup Jason Campbell to fill in for starter Brandon Weeden,

RG3 suggests he'll run more to spark Redskins

ASHBURN, Va. (AP)—Look for Robert Griffin III to start running again.

The Washington Redskins quarterback said Wednesday that he might start running the ball more to help give his team a much-needed spark after an 0-2 start.

Griffin has carried the ball only nine times in two games, and he's yet to run the ball out of the zone-read, the type of play that befuddled defenses

and helped him set a rookie QB rushing record with 815 yards a year ago.

Griffin said he isn't hindered by the brace on his right knee, a visible reminder of his offseason knee surgery. Teammate Pierre Garcon says it's "common sense" that the knee brace would slow Griffin down, and Griffin responded by jokingly challenging Garcon to a race.

The Redskins play Detroit on Sunday.

who is sidelined with a sprained right thumb.

The double whammy floored many Browns fans, leaving some to wonder if the team was giving up on this season.

Banner denied that and said he understands the fans' suspicions.

"We have to earn their belief and trust in the decisions we're going to make as a group," he said. "I don't expect them to trust that until we prove that the trust is well placed. So, I understand the skepticism for now. We have to do what we think is right, move the franchise forward and get it to where we want it to be."

Chudzinski isn't worried about any negative backlash from his players, who have left the facility when the trade was announced.

"That's football," said Chudzinski, adding he reached out to the team's captains. "You deal with those things whether they are injuries or a trade. I believe in this group and I believe the next guy will step up and we will find a way and do what we need to do to win."

Like Richardson, Weeden's days could be numbered with the Browns, who have started 19 quarterbacks since 1999 and are still looking for the right one.

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Japanese Students vs Tan Holdings FC

PHOTOS BY ROSELYN B. MONROYO



Two Japanese players who are part of the Ehime University delegation battle a Tan Holdings player for the ball during a friendly game last Wednesday night at the Oleai Sports Complex Field.



A Tan Holdings FC player picks up the ball from a fallen Japanese player.



Japanese and Tan Holdings players engage in a foot race.



Tan Holdings FC's Jason Chung, right, steps into action against a Japanese player.



Tan Holdings FC's Jersh Angeles and some CNMI youth players watch the game from the sideline.



Supporters of the Japanese players celebrate after their team scored.



Raphael Zapanta, right, gets a breather from his teammate.



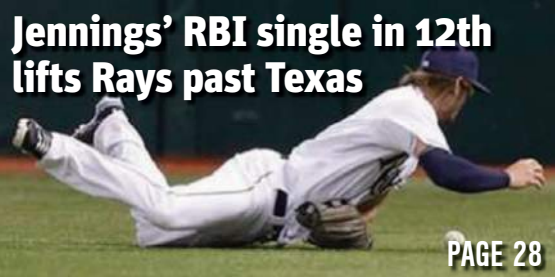
Four Japanese players head back to their bench after the first half of action.



The visiting Japanese perform during the halftime break.



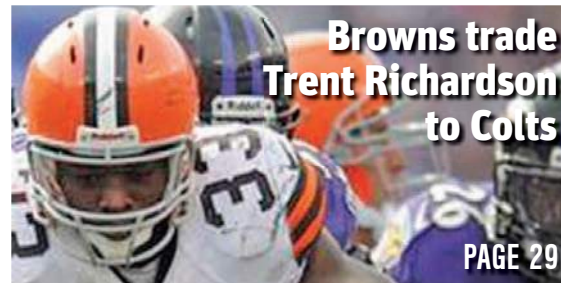
Tan Holdings FC players watch the halftime show.



Jennings' RBI single in 12th lifts Rays past Texas

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Browns trade Trent Richardson to Colts

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Sonics return to finals vs S.J. Ol'Aces



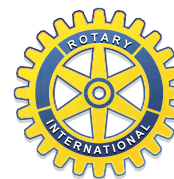
ROSELYN B. MONROYO

The Sonics' Jack Aranda uses his body to protect the ball, as he goes up for a shot against a Mariana Resort/Proa defender during their semis game in the U19 division of the Rotary caging last Wednesday night at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Defending champions Sonics are back in the finals after beating Mariana Resort/Proa, 58-47, in the semifinals of the U19 division of the 22nd Annual Saipan Rotary Club Youth Basketball League last Wednesday night at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

It will be the Sonics' fourth straight finals appearance in the higher age group of the Rotary caging and they will be gunning for their third consecutive championship when they face the S.J. Ol'Aces today at 6:30pm. The S.J. Ol'Aces earlier bagged the first finals berth after eliminating the Rollers in the other semis



match, 68-50.

The Sonics-Mariana Resort/Proa semis showdown was an early rematch of last season's finale that the former won, 59-53, and the defending champions frustrated their rival anew after hanging tough in the final seven minutes of the second Final

See SONICS on Page 26

Passage of NMASA bill urged



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

A portion of the Oleai Sports Complex is seen here getting inspected by the Pacific Games Council officials in 2011.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER



With the clock ticking, Northern Marianas Amateur Sports Association has renewed its clamor for the passage of a bill that would give the group the important tools to help promote and develop CNMI sports.

House Bill 18-111, which is also known as the "Northern Marianas Sports Act of 2013" was pre-filed by Rep. Antonio Sablan (IR-Saipan) on Aug. 13, 2013 and as of press time has been sitting in the House. It aims to repeal Executive Order 94-3, which placed NMASA under the Department of Community and Cultural Affairs through the Division of Sports and Recreation.

Once approved and become law, NMASA will be called the Northern Marianas Sports As-

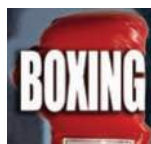
sociation, a private non-profit corporation, and DCCA will be required to transfer to NMASA unobligated appropriations for the Division of Sports and Recreation, which essentially will be defunct after decades of managing and operating the Oleai Sports Complex.

NMASA will assume the management and operation duties at the Oleai Sports Complex. The takeover is set for Oct. 1 and NMASA moved closer to that goal after Gov. Eloy Inos signed the \$123.4-million budget last Wednesday. The budget for fiscal year 2014 includes the P193,228 appropriated to NMASA. The NMASA budget is divided into three with \$84,660 going to its personnel (4), \$72,568 for operations, and \$36,000 for utilities. The amount is higher than the \$130,266 NMASA initially requested.

See PASSAGE on Page 26

Former heavyweight champion Norton dies

By TIM DAHLBERG
AP BOXING WRITER



LAS VEGAS (AP)—He was the second man to beat Muhammad Ali, breaking Ali's jaw and sending him to the hospital in their 1973 heavyweight fight.

Ken Norton frustrated Ali three times in all, including their final bout at Yankee Stadium where he was sure he had beaten him once again.

Norton, who died Wednesday at the age of 70, lost that fight for the heavyweight title. But he was forever linked to Ali for the 39 rounds they fought over three fights, with very little separating one man from the other in the ring.

"Kenny was a good, good fighter. He beat a lot of guys," said Ed Schuyler Jr., who cov-

ered many of Norton's fights for The Associated Press. "He gave Ali fits because Ali let him fight coming forward instead of making him back up."

Norton is the only heavyweight champion never to win the title in the ring, and boxing fans still talk about the bruising battle he waged with Larry Hol-

mes for the title in 1978. But it was his first fight with Ali that made the former Marine a big name and the two fights that followed that were his real legacy.

Few gave Norton, who possessed a muscular, sculpted body, much of a chance against Ali in their first meeting, held at the Sports Arena in San Diego, where Norton lived. But his awkward style and close-in pressing tactics confused Ali, who fought in pain after his jaw was broken.

"Ali tore up his ankle while training and we were going to call the fight off but didn't," former Ali business manager Gene Kilroy said. "Ali said it's not going to be that tough."

It was, with Norton breaking Ali's jaw in the early rounds and having his way with the former champion for much of the night. The loss was even more shock-

See FORMER on Page 26



In this Sept. 10, 1973, file photo, Muhammad Ali, right, wins as Ken Norton hits him with a left to the head during their rematch at the Forum in Inglewood, Calif. Norton, a former heavyweight champion, has died, his son said, Wednesday, Sept. 18, 2013. He was 70.